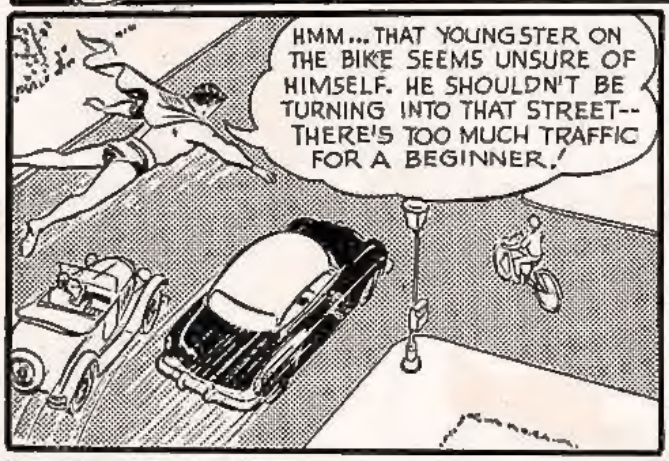
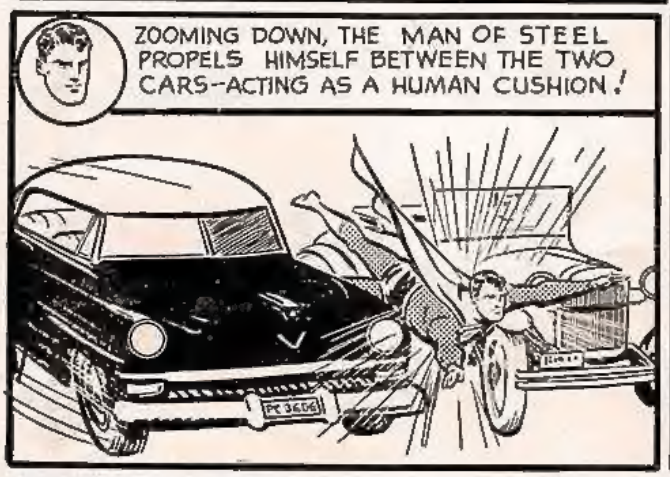
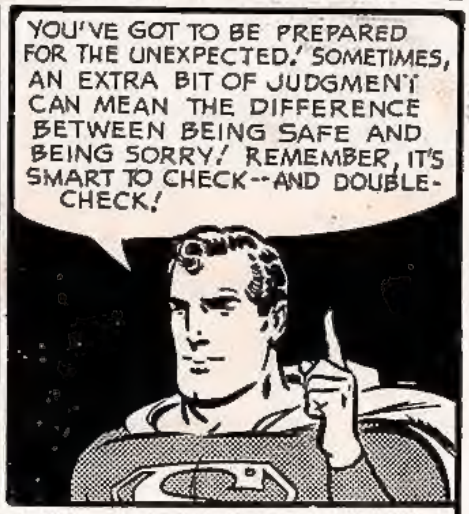
SUPERMAN NATIONAL COMICS DC
AUG.-SEPT.
10c
IS HE MAN...OR GHOST?
SUPERMAN NATIONAL COMICS DC
THE PHANTOM STRANGER
OUT OF THE SWIRLING MISTS OF NOWHERE LOOMS A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE TO SHIELD THE INNOCENT FROM THE DARK FORCES OF EVIL... AND THEN TO DISAPPEAR AGAIN INTO THE VOID!
WHO IS THE PHANTOM STRANGER?

SUPERMAN says: "It's Smart to Check-- and DOUBLECHECK!"







THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH LEADING NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS.

THE PHANTOM STRANGER, No. 1, Aug.-Sept., 1952. Published bi-monthly by National Comics Publications, Inc., 2 Main St., Bridgeport, Conn. Editorial and Executive offices, 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. Application as second class matter pending at the Post Office at Bridgeport, Conn., under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. 75c including postage. Foreign $1.50 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y. Entire contents copyrighted 1952 by National Comics Publications, Inc. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

BEWILDERED AND TORMENTED BY AN UNCANNY ADVENTURE SHE RECENTLY EXPERIENCED, ANNE PARRIS CONFIDES HER SECRET TO THE BEST FRIEND SHE HAS...

AS YOUR FAMILY PHYSICIAN, ANNE, I SUGGEST THAT YOU GET SOME REST! GET RID OF THIS FANTASTIC NOTION YOU SAW--

DOCTOR! YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!

RUSHING OUT OF THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE, THE DISTRAUGHT GIRL WANDERS THROUGH THE STREETS...

IF THEY WERE THERE, I'M DOOMED! IF THEY WEREN'T THERE, I'M MAD! EITHER WAY, I'M LOST!

HER AIMLESS WALK LEADS TO A BRIDGE...

I'M ALL ALONE HERE! I'M ALL ALONE EVERYWHERE! ONLY ONE THING TO DO--!

BUT, AS SHE STARTS TO CLIMB THE RAIL...

WHATEVER'S TROUBLING YOU, YOUNG LADY, YOU WON'T SOLVE IT BY JUMPING OFF THIS BRIDGE!

WHO--WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET HERE SO QUICKLY?

I'M JUST A STRANGER--AND I'M HERE TO HELP YOU! TELL ME--WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I'LL TELL--BUT YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME, EITHER! MY NAME IS ANNE PARRIS. I'M DESCENDED FROM SAMUEL PARRIS OF OLD SALEM, WHO STARTED THE PERSECUTION OF ACCUSED WITCHES IN 1692!

"I WORK AS A SECRETARY--MODEST SALARY, NO NEAR RELATIVES! YESTERDAY, A BOOK ARRIVED IN THE MAIL! AS I OPENED IT LAST NIGHT TO READ, A GREEN MIST FORMED..."

I FEEL FAINT... DROWSY...

SALEM

"THEN THE VAPOR SEEMED TO DRIFT AWAY! AS MY SENSES CLEARED..."

YOU TWO--HOW DID YOU GET INTO MY ROOM? ARE YOU REAL?

AS REAL AS TRAGIC HISTORY, ANNE PARRIS! WE DIED BECAUSE OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S ACCUSATIONS! BUT OUR SPIRITS REMAIN TO DEMAND RECOMPENSE AT YOUR HANDS!

MY NAME WAS GEORGE BURROUGHS, MANY GENERATIONS AGO! MY COMPANION IS--WAS--MARTHA CARRIER!

WE WERE THE LEADERS OF THE SALEM WITCH CULT, UNTIL YOUR MEDDLING FOREFATHER RAISED THE PEOPLE AGAINST US!

WE WERE HANGED ON GALLOWS HILL! BUT OUR SOULS CANNOT HAVE REST UNTIL YOUR SOUL REDEEMS THEM!

YES, ANNE PARRIS! YOU MUST DIE AND BE CURSED! THAT WILL SET US FREE! WE DEMAND YOU DIE!

ANNE FINISHES HER FANTASTIC TALE

AFTER THAT--THE GREEN MIST SWIRLED, AND THEY VANISHED! EITHER I SAW THEM OR I DIDN'T! MAD OR SANE, I'M CURSED! I CAN'T LIVE IN SUCH HORROR!

TAKE COURAGE! PERHAPS THERE'S A SIMPLE EXPLANATION! LET ME TAKE YOU HOME!

AS THEY REACH THE COTTAGE WHERE ANNE PARRIS LIVES ALONE...

THAT LIGHTNING! THAT RAIN--IT'S LIKE THE SIGN OF A WAITING DANGER TELLING US--

TELLING US TO GET INSIDE WHERE IT'S COMFORTABLE! I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE THIS WITCHCRAFT BOOK OF YOURS!

INSIDE...

THIS BOOK IS A HISTORY OF THE INFAMOUS WITCH-TRIALS HELD IN OLD SALEM! IT'S AN ACCOUNT OF FOOLISH BELIEFS AND UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE CONDEMNED TO DEATH!

LOOK! THE GREEN MIST AGAIN--RISING AROUND US!

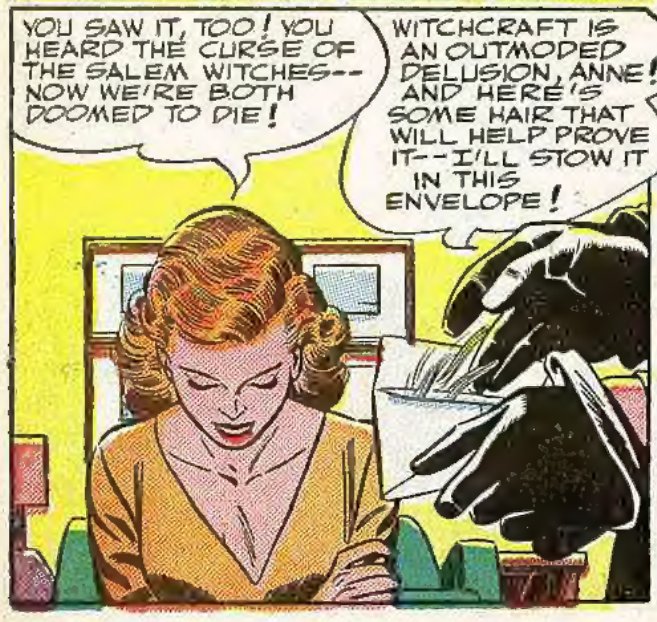
A MOMENT LATER, THE AIR SEEMS TO CLEAR...
ANNE PARRIS, YOU HAVE TOLD OUR SECRET TO THIS INTERLOPER! NOW HE IS ACCURSED, AS YOU ARE!

I AM GEORGE BURROUGHS, MASTER OF SALEM WITCHES! BY THE POWER I WIELDED THEN, I COMMAND YOU...
COMMAND THOSE WHO DARE NOT DIS-OBEY! LET'S SEE HOW WELL A WITCH'S GHOST CAN FIGHT!

YOU'RE SOLID ENOUGH TO TAKE A BLOW--

THE GREEN MIST! IT'S COMING BACK!

A FEW MOMENTS OF DIZZY FAINTNESS... THEN...
THE GREEN MIST HAS GONE!
AND SO HAVE THOSE TWO WITCH-PEOPLE!


YOU SAW IT, TOO! YOU HEARD THE CURSE OF THE SALEM WITCHES-- NOW WE'RE BOTH DOOMED TO DIE!
WITCHCRAFT IS AN OUTMODED DELUSION, ANNE! AND HERE'S SOME HAIR THAT WILL HELP PROVE IT--I'LL STOW IT IN THIS ENVELOPE!

IT WAS NO DELUSION! SEE THERE--THE MARK OF GEORGE BURROUGHS' FEET!

WHAT KIND OF EVIL SPIRIT CAN TRACK MUD INTO THE HOUSE?

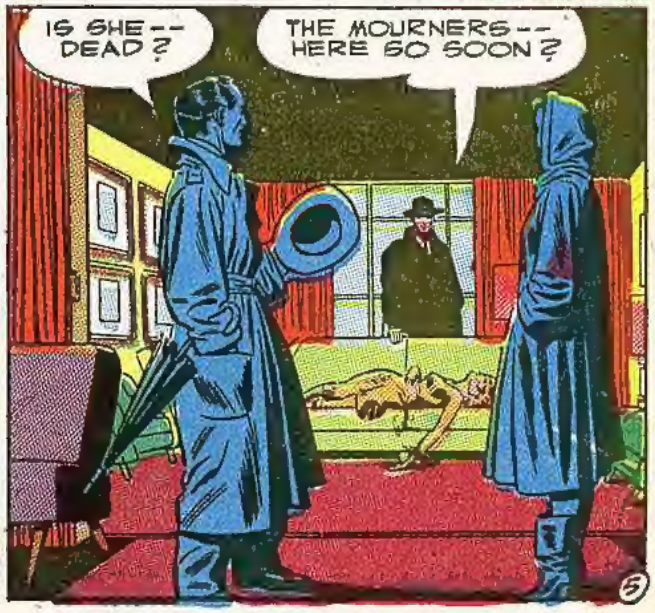
THE RAIN STARTED JUST AS WE CAME IN! THEY'RE NOT OUR PRINTS! AND THIS IS THE SORT OF MUD THAT MATCHES THE SOIL IN YOUR FRONT YARD! I'LL USE THIS KNIFE TO COLLECT A SAMPLE!

AND NOW, ANNE, TO BREAK THIS GHOSTLY AFFAIR WIDE OPEN-- YOU MUST DIE!
WH-WHAT?

DON'T BE ALARMED! YOU'RE MERELY GOING TO PRETEND TO BE DEAD! LIE DOWN ON THIS COUCH--AND NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES, DON'T MOVE TILL I TELL YOU!

THEN--NEAR THE WINDOW--THE PHANTOM STRANGER EMPLOYS A STRANGE LOOKING WEAPON ...
A FOCUSSING OF HEAT-- FORCE FROM MY CONJURE FLASH WILL CAUSE AN EXPLOSION OF THIS FABRIC!

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE ANNE'S HOUSE ...
A GUN-SHOT! MY COUSIN KILLED HERSELF! LET'S GO INSIDE!
BAM!

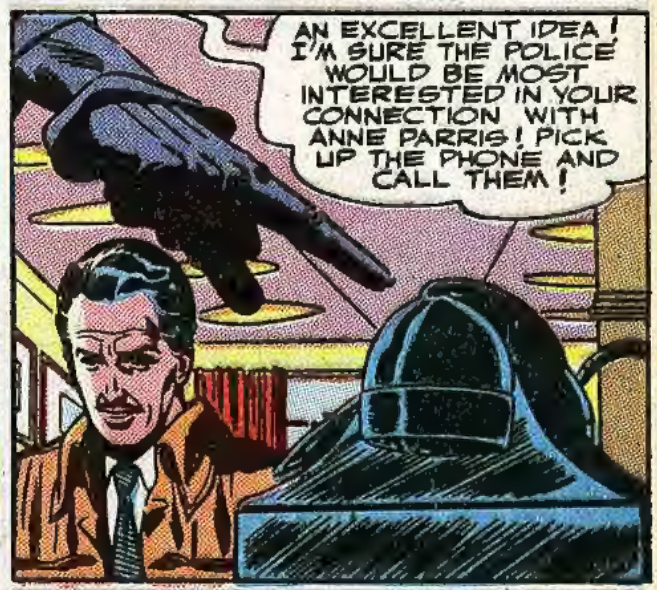

IS SHE-- DEAD?
THE MOURNERS-- HERE SO SOON?

MY NAME'S BRYCE PARRIS--POOR ANNE'S COUSIN! THIS IS MY FIANCÉE, MISS RITA WESTCOTT...
WE HEARD OF ANNE'S TROUBLE AND HURRIED HERE--TOO LATE, IT SEEMS!

SO YOU HEARD OF ANNE'S TROUBLE, DID YOU? I DIDN'T KNOW SHE HAD TOLD ANYONE EXCEPT HER DOCTOR!
WHY-ER-THAT'S WHERE WE LEARNED ABOUT IT--AND JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MISTER--MISTER--?

CALL ME THE PHANTOM STRANGER--MOST EVERYONE ELSE DOES!

I BET YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO MY POOR COUSIN! I OUGHT TO CALL THE POLICE!

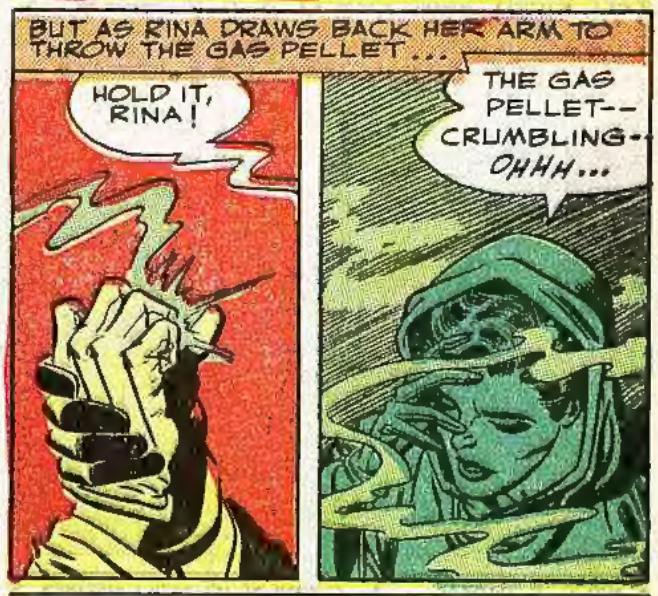

AN EXCELLENT IDEA! I'M SURE THE POLICE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN YOUR CONNECTION WITH ANNE PARRIS! PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL THEM!

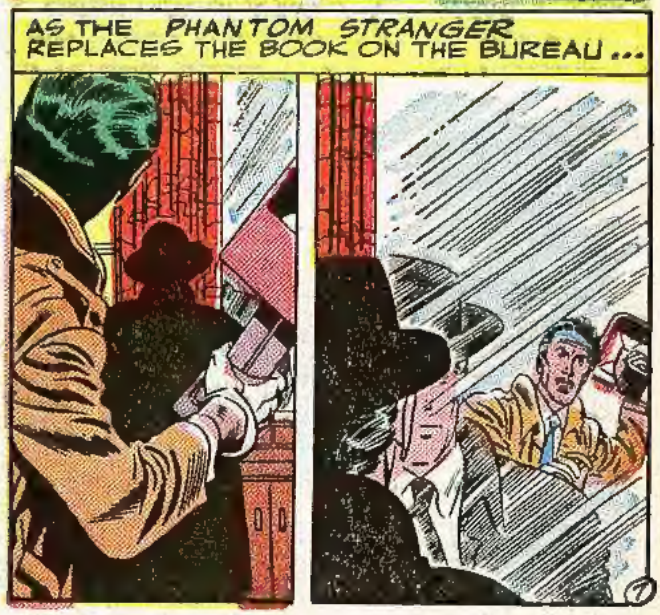
WHY, YOU BARE-FACED MEDDLER!
YOU'RE STRANGELY BARE-FACED YOURSELF, MR. PARRIS, AFTER PULLING OFF YOUR FALSE GOATEE! I SEE A TRACE OF STICKY SPIRIT GUM STILL ON YOUR CHIN!

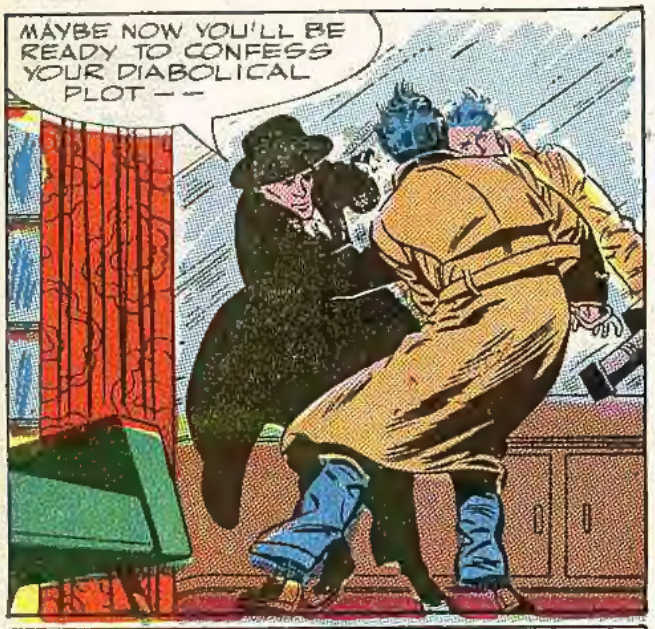
HERE'S A WISP OF THE CREPE HAIR YOU USED TO MAKE YOURSELF UP AS GEORGE BURROUGHS! YOU PLANNED TO MURDER YOUR COUSIN--

YOU KNOW TOO MUCH--AND TALK TOO MUCH--

SWIFT IS BRYCE PARRIS' DRAW, BUT SWIFTER STILL IS THE *PHANTOM STRANGER'S* FLASHING HAND ...

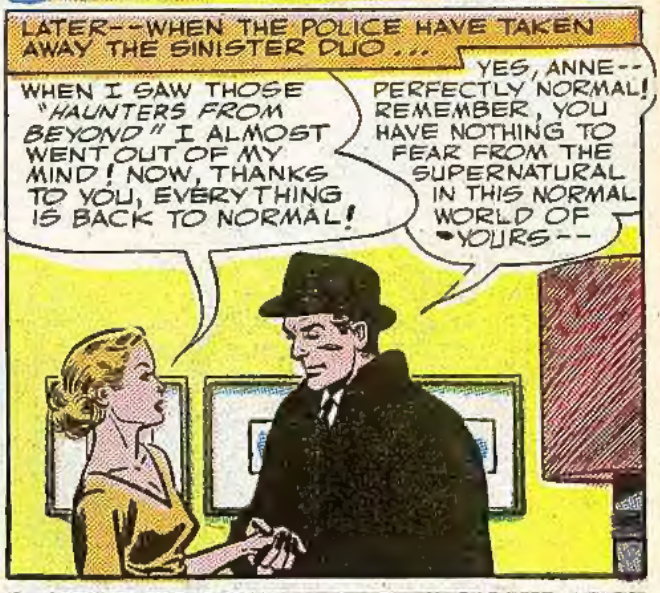





MAYBE NOW YOU'LL BE READY TO CONFESS YOUR DIABOLICAL PLOT --

ANNE DIDN'T KNOW, BUT SHE INHERITED THE PARRIS FORTUNE FROM HER GREAT-UNCLE! IF SHE DIED, IT WOULD COME TO ME, SO --
SO YOU AND YOUR FIANCÈE PLANNED TO HOUND HER INTO KILLING HERSELF!

ALL RIGHT, ANNE -- YOU CAN GET UP NOW! IT'S TIME TO PHONE THE POLICE AND TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED!
SHE'S ALIVE!


LATER--WHEN THE POLICE HAVE TAKEN AWAY THE SINISTER DUO...
WHEN I SAW THOSE "HAUNTERS FROM BEYOND" I ALMOST WENT OUT OF MY MIND! NOW, THANKS TO YOU, EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL!
YES, ANNE-- PERFECTLY NORMAL! REMEMBER, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE SUPERNATURAL IN THIS NORMAL WORLD OF YOURS--

WILL I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN?
ONLY IF YOU NEED ME! GOOD-BYE AND GOOD LUCK!

HE'S GONE! I-I WONDER WHO HE IS?
THE END!

ADVERTISEMENT

TOP SPEED STOPS SPY

ANOTHER JIM WISE "P-F" ADVENTURE STORY

STOP HIM! HE STOLE THE SECRET BLUEPRINTS!

MAYBE WE CAN STOP HIM AT THE CORNER!

LET'S GO!

GLAD WE'RE WEARING OUR "P-F'S"!

I'LL GIVE HIM A "FLYING BLOCK."

JIM WISE TELLS WHY "P-F" CANVAS SHOES HELP YOU GO FULL SPEED LONGER!

1. THE IMPORTANT "P-F" RIGID WEDGE HELPS KEEP THE WEIGHT OF THE BODY ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL FOOT...DECREASING FOOT AND LEG MUSCLE STRAIN, INCREASING ENDURANCE.

2. SPONGE RUBBER CUSHION.

"P-F" MEANS POSTURE FOUNDATION ®

GOT IT!

HERE YOU ARE, SIR

NICE GOING, BOYS. YOUR SPEED HELPED CAPTURE A DANGEROUS SPY

AND YOU SAVED SOME IMPORTANT BLUEPRINTS

OUR "P-F'S" HELPED US GO AT OUR BEST

TAKE A TIP FROM JIM WISE!

GET YOUR "P-F" CANVAS SHOES TODAY AND SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW THEY HELP:

...LESSEN FOOT AND LEG MUSCLE STRAIN

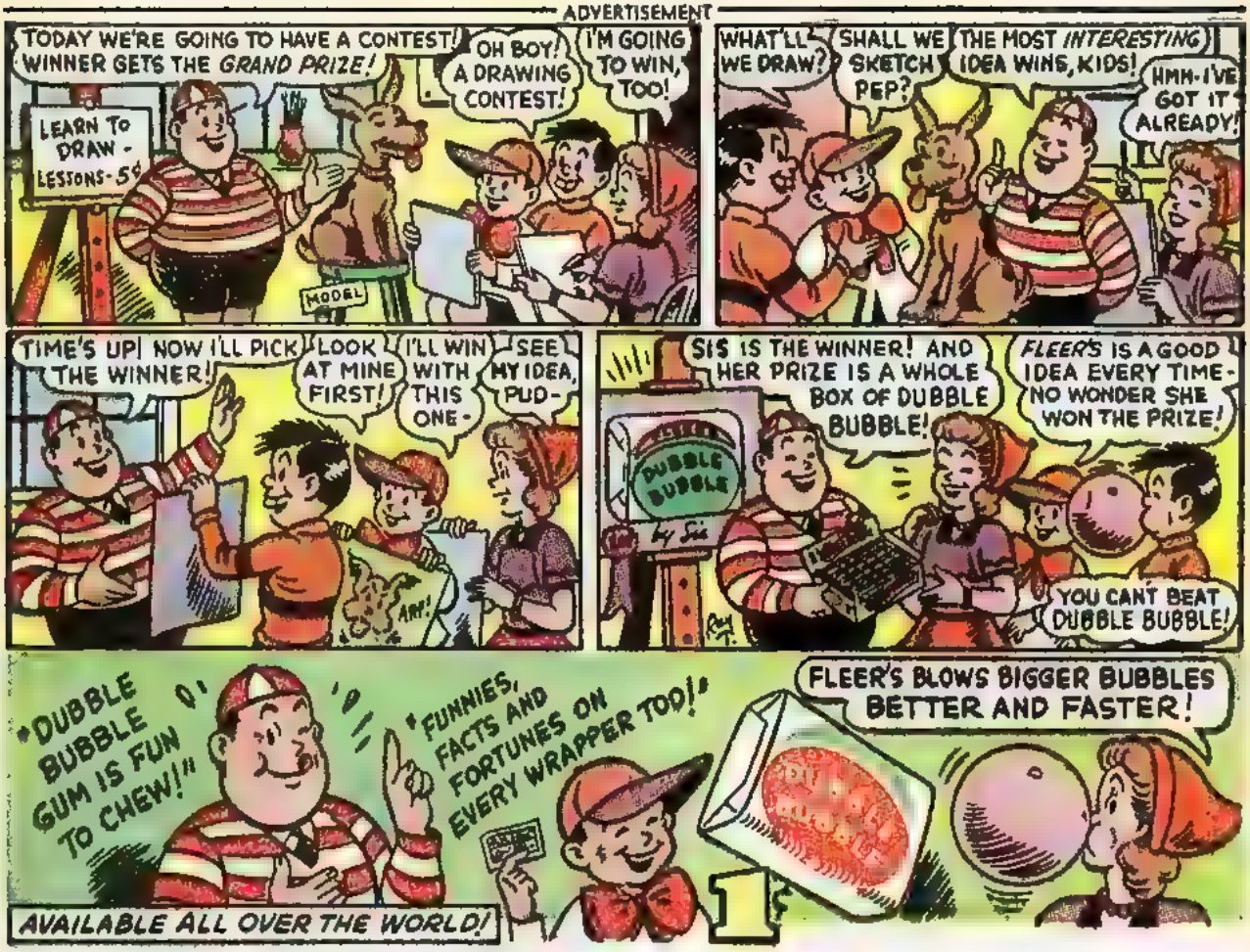
...INCREASE ENDURANCE

...YOU GO FULL SPEED LONGER

P-F

INSIST ON "P-F" CANVAS SHOES MADE ONLY BY Hood Rubber Company and B.F.Goodrich

ADVERTISEMENT



Editorial Advisory Board

DR. LAURETTA BENDER
Professor of Clinical Psychiatry,
New York University, College of Medicine

JOSETTE FRANK
Consultant on Children's Reading
Child Study Association of America

SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS

The following magazines all bear this trademark

Dr. W. W. D. SONES
Professor of Education and Director of Curriculum Study
University of Pittsburgh

Dr. S. HARCOURT PEPPARD
Director, Essex County Juvenile Clinic
Newark, N. J.

AS YOUR GUARANTEE OF THE BEST IN COMICS READING:

ACTION COMICS
ADVENTURE COMICS
ALL-AMERICAN MEN OF WAR
ALL STAR WESTERN
ANIMAL ANTICS
BATMAN
BIG TOWN
BOB HOPE
BUZZY
COMIC CAVALCADE
DALE EVANS
DEAN MARTIN and JERRY LEWIS
A DATE WITH JUDY
DETECTIVE COMICS
FLIPPITY & FLOP
FUNNY FOLKS
FUNNY STUFF
GANG BUSTERS
HERE'S HOWIE
HOUSE OF MYSTERY
JIMMY WAKELY
LEADING COMICS
LEAVE IT TO BINKY
MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY
THE PHANTOM STRANGER
MYSTERY IN SPACE
MUTT & JEFF
OUR ARMY AT WAR
PETER PORKCHOPS
REAL SCREEN COMICS
REX THE WONDER DOG
SENSATION MYSTERY
STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES
STRANGE ADVENTURES
SUPERBOY
SUPERMAN
THE FOX & THE CROW
TOMAHAWK
WESTERN COMICS
WONDER WOMAN
WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

NOW on TELEVISION

A Date with Judy — Every Saturday Morning

Presented by McKesson & Robbins

...the American Family's favorite daughter

See your local paper for time and channel

AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY

THE PHANTOM STRANGER

A PLANE CRASHES TO EARTH — KILLING EVERYONE ABOARD! BUT EVEN IN DEATH NOTHING COULD STOP A TRIO OF PASSENGERS FROM COMPLETING THEIR MISSIONS!

WHEN DEAD MEN WALK!

ALSO ON BOARD IS BART BENSON, ACE RODEO STAR, FLYING WEST TO BUY THE MOST UNBREAKABLE BRONC SINCE THE GREAT *STEAMBOAT*...

IF *ROUGH-NECK* IS ALL THE HORSE THEY SAY HE IS--I WANT HIM!

TWO SEATS AWAY, HATE GLEAMING IN HIS EYES, IS CARSON RAND...

IF HEATH WON'T GIVE ME THOSE PAPERS... I-I'LL KILL HIM!

CLOSE FRIENDS, THE THREE PASSENGERS HAVE SEAT RESERVATIONS NEAR EACH OTHER...

COME ON, BART! CARSON! I CAN BEAT YOU BOTH PLAYING GIN RUMMY!

BUT BEFORE A CARD CAN BE DEALT, THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH, A CHEERFUL VOICE..

THANKS, FOLKS! THIS IS FLIGHT ONE THOUSAND FOR PILOT JIM THOMPSON! WE'RE PLAYING IT UP BIG IN THE PAPERS!

MOMENTS LATER, THE GREAT STRATOCRUISER LIFTS INTO THE SUNNY SKY, AND SPEEDS WESTWARD. THEN, HOURS LATER, WHILE OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS...

LOOK OUT! THERE'S SHEER WALL RIGHT AHEAD--

CRACK!

IN A RANCH HOUSE NEAR LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, TWO NIGHTS LATER, A MAN TWISTS AND TURNS RESTLESSLY IN HIS BED. SUDDENLY HE WAKES...
EDGAR JONES... CAN YOU HEAR ME? I AM THE SPIRIT OF CARSON RAND... I'VE COME FOR THE BLACK-MAIL PAPERS...
NO! YOU CAN'T BE RAND! HE'S DEAD! I READ IT IN THE PAPERS! HE DIED IN THE PLANE CRASH...
YES--I DIED--BUT EVEN IN DEATH MY SPIRIT CANNOT REST--UNTIL I HAVE DESTROYED THOSE PAPERS...!
NO! I WON'T LET YOU GET THEM..
NO GHOST CAN OPEN THIS WALL SAFE!
I KNEW YOU'D REVEAL THE PAPERS' HIDING PLACE IN YOUR FRIGHT! NOW STEP ASIDE--
SUDDENLY A HAND APPEARS IN THE DARKNESS...
CURIOUS, ISN'T IT, MR. JONES, THAT YOUR GHOSTLY VISITOR COULD ONLY ENTER YOUR ROOM BY OPENING THE DOOR!
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME FROM GETTING THOSE PAPERS--
YOUR GHOSTLY MASQUERADE TO FRIGHTEN YOUR VICTIM INTO REVEALING THE LOCATION OF THOSE IMPORTANT PAPERS ALMOST WORKED--
UHNN--
SUDDENLY, WITH A SHARP, TERRIFIED CRY, THE APPARITION FLEES FROM THE ROOM...
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
YES--LET HIM! IT ISN'T YET TIME TO STOP HIM!
SLAM!
A MOMENT LATER--EDGAR JONES FINDS HIMSELF ALONE AGAIN IN THE ROOM...
B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHO WAS THAT PHANTOM STRANGER?

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AT A RANCH IN THE MESA VERDE COUNTRY OF COLORADO, WHERE THE GREAT, UNBROKEN STALLION, *ROUGHNECK* IS CORRALED...

LOOK -- THE FENCE!

LETTERS -- BRIGHT AND SHINY -- AS IF THEY WERE PRINTED THERE WITH COLD FIRE!

ROUGHNECK IS MINE! I WILL RIDE HIM AS I PROMISED! — BART. BENSON!

THE GREAT STALLION REARS SUDDENLY, HOOFS POUNDING THE AIR! HE TRUMPETS HIS RAGE INTO THE NIGHT -- SUNFISHING — CROWFOOTING — FENCE-DUSTING -- DESPERATELY TRYING TO DISLODGE WHAT SEEMS TO BE -- ***AN INVISIBLE RIDER!***

LOOK AT *ROUGHNECK!*

THERE'S NOBODY RIDING HIM!

-- UNLESS IT'S THE *GHOST* OF BART BENSON!

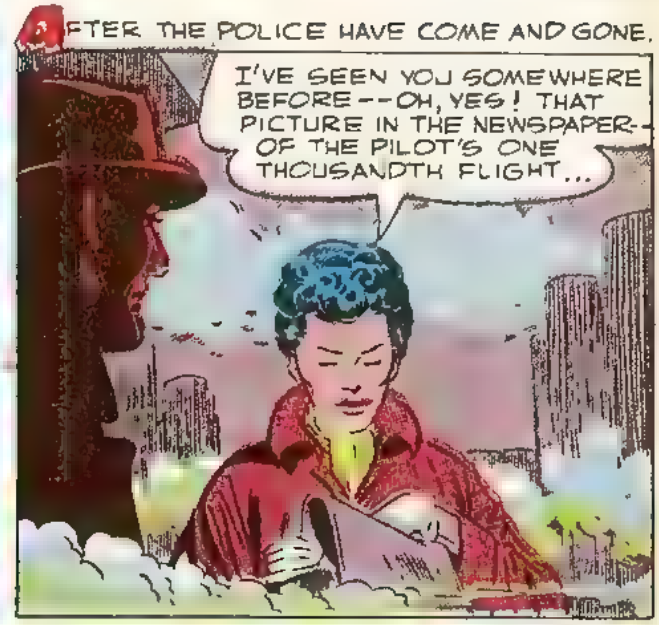
WINDED, SEEMINGLY RIDDEN TO EXHAUSTION, THE MAGNIFICENT STALLION SHUDDERS TO A STAND -- AND THEN, APPEARING ALONGSIDE HIM, IS THE ***PHANTOM STRANGER...***

NO GHOST BROKE THIS HORSE, BUT A LIVING MAN! HE DID IT CLEVERLY, AS THE INDIANS BROKE THEIR PONIES! HE SECRETLY TAUGHT *ROUGHNECK* TO PRETEND TO BE THROWING A RIDER, WITH A WHISTLE INAUDIBLE TO HUMAN EARS!

THESE FIERY LETTERS WERE PAINTED ON WITH A ZINC COMPOUND -- THAT GLOWS BRIGHTLY WHEN STRUCK BY MOONLIGHT! ALL GHOSTLY EFFECTS -- *WITH NO GHOST AT ALL!*

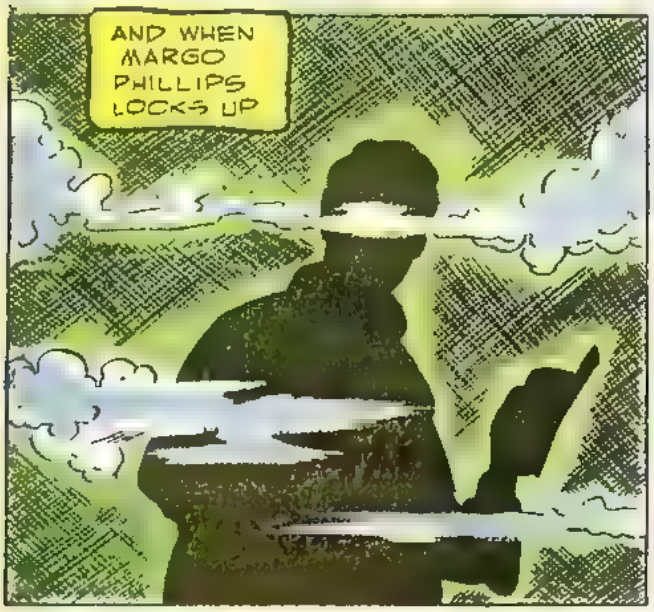
ON A FOGGY STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO, NEXT NIGHT, AS MARGO PHILLIPS HURRIES ALONG THE LONELY PAVEMENT...
MARGO-- DARLING--
WHO'S THERE? OHH-- IT CAN'T BE! JOHN.. JOHN MARTIN! NO! YOU'RE--DEAD!
DON'T BE AFRAID, DARLING! YES, I AM DEAD, BUT I HAVE COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE-- FOR YOU!
ROOTED TO THE GROUND IN FRIGHT, MARGO PHILLIPS SHRINKS HELPLESSLY...
I WAS FLYING WEST TO MARRY YOU, MARGO, WHEN I WAS KILLED! I WANT YOU ALWAYS WITH ME! BUT YOU CAN ONLY ENTER THE OTHER WORLD--AFTER YOU DIE!
OUT OF THE MIST AND THE FOG, ANOTHER FIGURE LOOMS...
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, MARGO! DON'T YOU SEE THROUGH THE GHOSTLY DISGUISE TO RECOGNIZE--
MATT WRIGHT-- CASHIER IN THE NIGHTCLUB WHERE I SING!
AS THE EXPOSED "GHOST" STRUGGLES TO BREAK FREE FROM THE PHANTOM STRANGER...
YOU WANT TO KILL HER TO PROTECT YOURSELF-- FOR MARGO DISCOVERED YOU WERE STEALING FUNDS FROM THE NIGHT-CLUB! WHEN YOU READ OF THAT WRECK THAT KILLED HER FIANCÉE, YOU CONCEIVED AN INGENIOUS PLAN TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER!
LEARNING OF THE MISSIONS OF BART BENSON AND CARSON RAND FROM JOHN MARTIN'S LETTER TO MARGO--YOU IMPERSONATED THEIR GHOSTS TO THROW THE POLICE OFF YOUR OWN TRAIL!

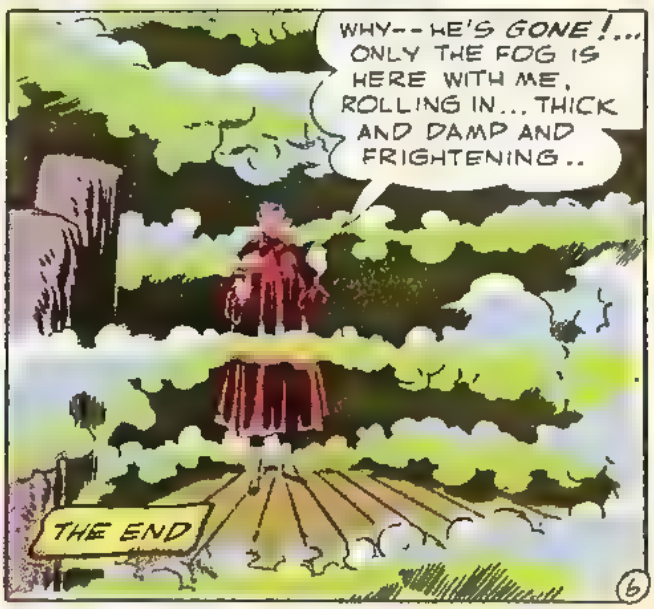
I LET YOU GO BEFORE--TILL YOUR REAL PLOT WAS EXPOSED! THE POLICE CAN HANDLE YOU FROM HERE ON--ON AN ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGE!


AFTER THE POLICE HAVE COME AND GONE.
I'VE SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE--OH, YES! THAT PICTURE IN THE NEWSPAPER--OF THE PILOT'S ONE THOUSANDTH FLIGHT...

HERE YOU ARE, PAST JOHN AND THOSE OTHER MEN.!

BUT--OH, MY GOODNESS! IF YOU WERE IN THAT PLANE--WHY WEREN'T YOU KILLED!


AND WHEN MARGO PHILLIPS LOOKS UP


WHY--HE'S GONE!... ONLY THE FOG IS HERE WITH ME, ROLLING IN... THICK AND DAMP AND FRIGHTENING..
THE END

Message to Parents

FIGHT INFANTILE PARALYSIS

WHAT TO DO IF POLIO COMES YOUR WAY

Keep children with their own friends. Keep them away from people they have not been with right along, especially in close daily living. Many people have polio infection without showing signs of sickness. Without knowing it they can pass the infection on to others.

Try not to get over-tired by work, hard play or travel. If you already have the polio infection in your body, being very tired may bring on serious polio.

Keep from getting chilled. Don't bathe or swim too long in cold water. Take off wet clothes at once. Chilling can lessen your body's protection against polio.

Keep clean. Wash hands carefully before eating and always after using the toilet. Hands may carry polio infection into the body through the mouth. Also keep food clean and covered.

WATCH FOR EARLY SIGNS OF SICKNESS

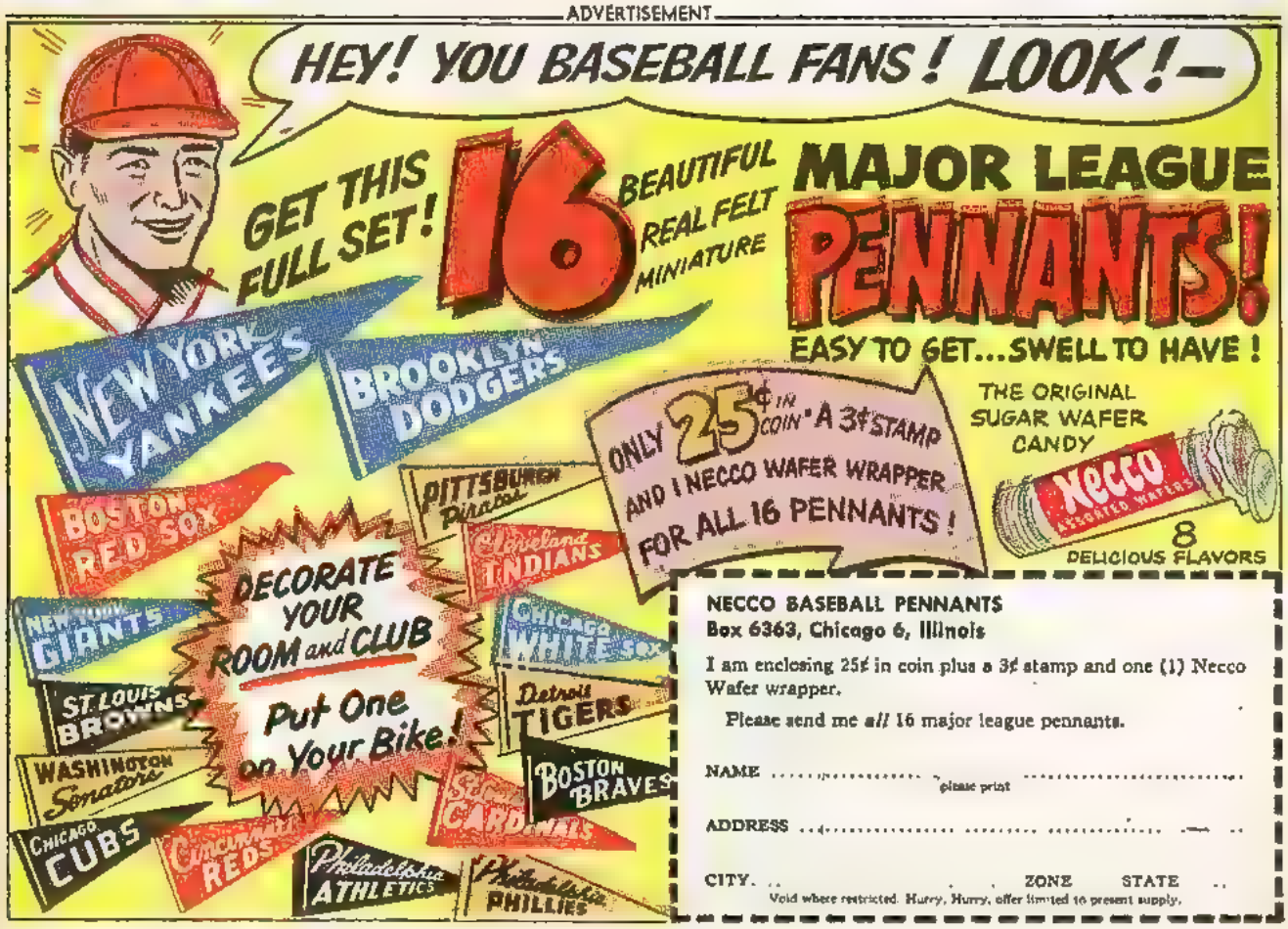
Polio starts in different ways with headache, sore throat, upset stomach or fever. Persons coming down with polio may also feel nervous, cross or dizzy. They may have trouble in swallowing or breathing. Often there is a stiff neck and back.

ACT QUICKLY—CALL YOUR DOCTOR AT ONCE

Until he comes, keep the patient quiet and in bed, away from others.

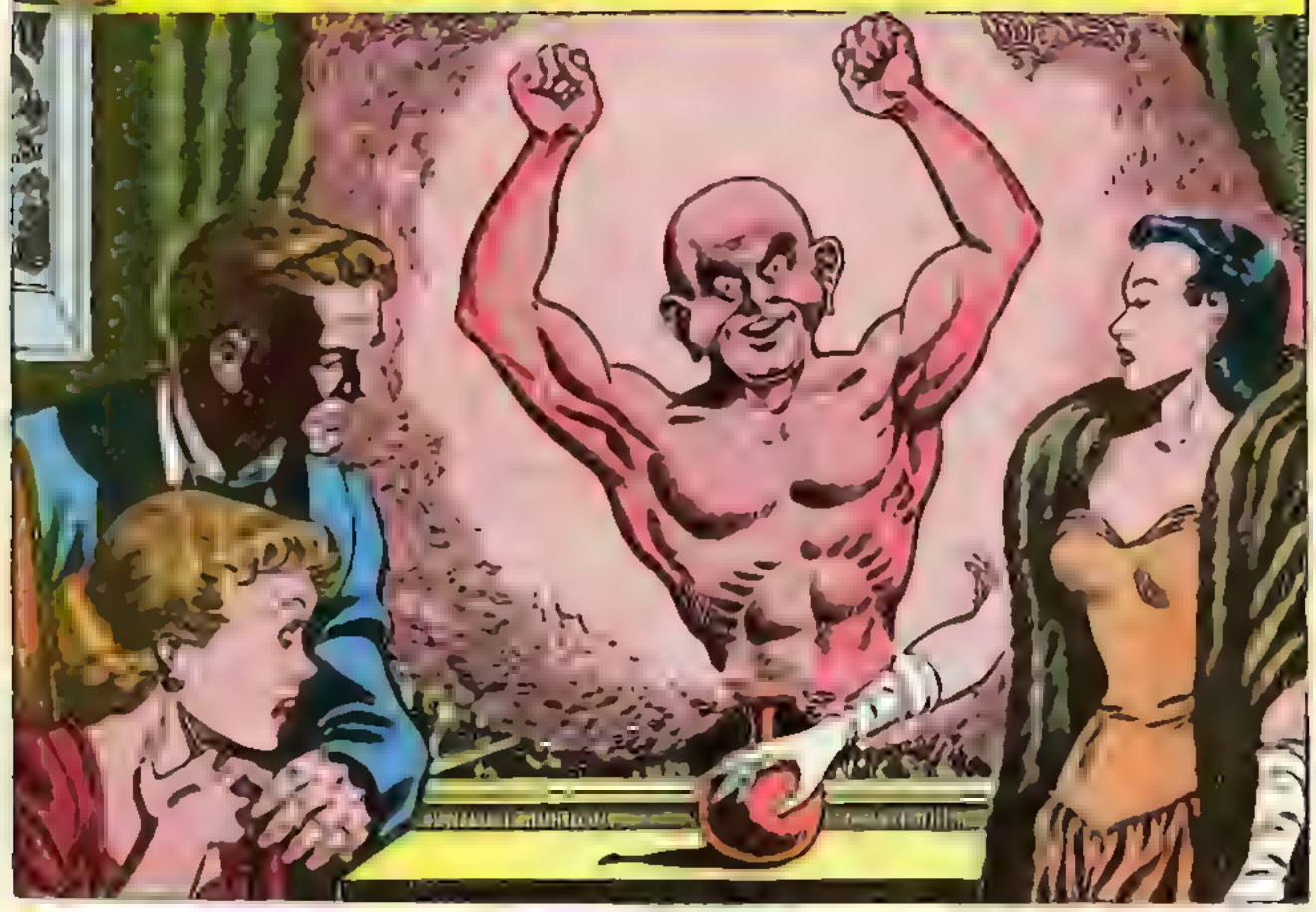
Prepared in Cooperation with The National Foundation For Infantile Paralysis

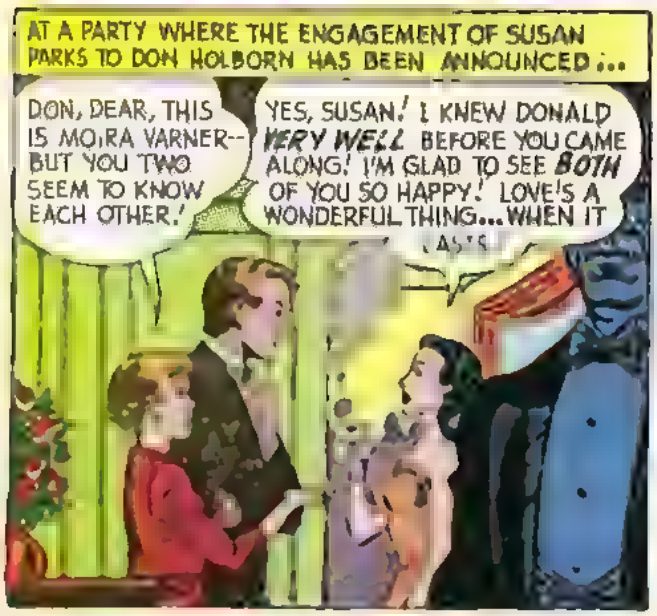
ADVERTISEMENT

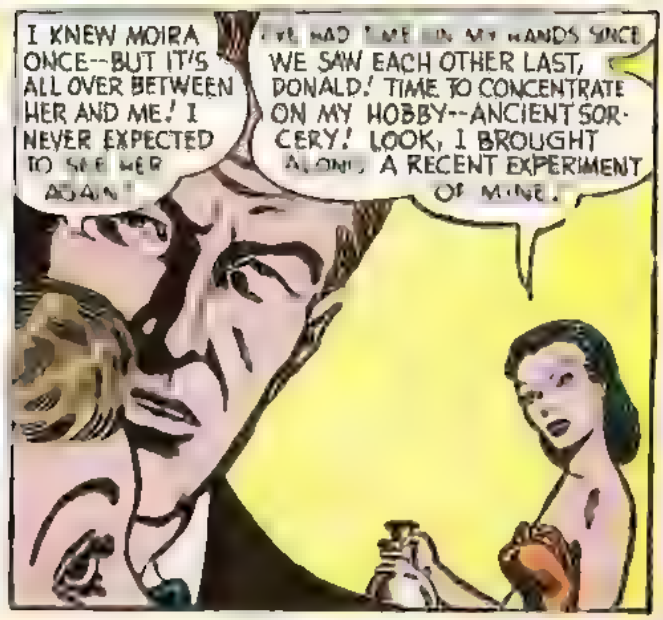


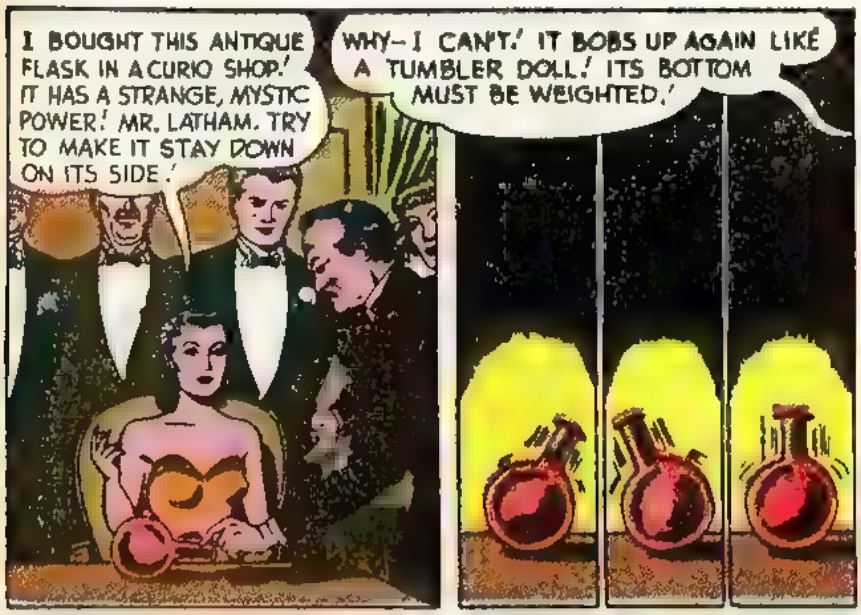
"TREAT ME KINDLY," THE VOICE FROM THE ANCIENT FLASK WARNED, "AND I'LL HELP YOU! DEFY ME, AND I'LL PUNISH YOU!"

GOBLIN in the BOTTLE

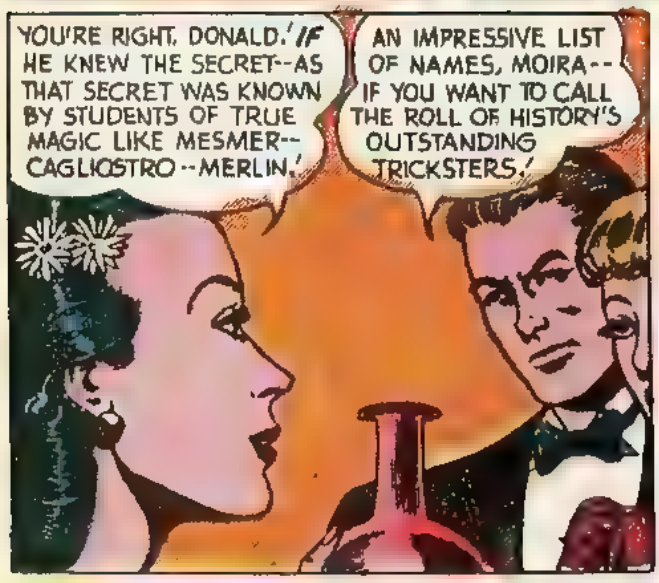






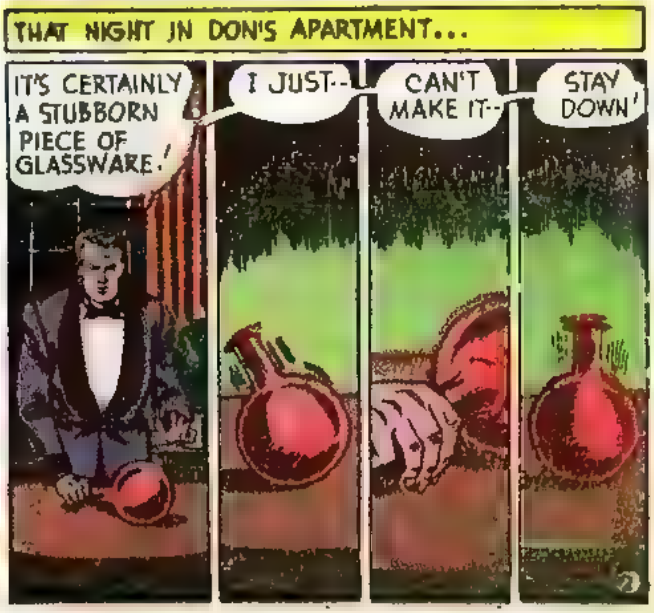

I BOUGHT THIS ANTIQUE FLASK IN A CURIO SHOP! IT HAS A STRANGE, MYSTIC POWER! MR. LATHAM. TRY TO MAKE IT STAY DOWN ON ITS SIDE!
WHY--I CAN'T! IT BOBS UP AGAIN LIKE A TUMBLER DOLL! ITS BOTTOM MUST BE WEIGHTED!

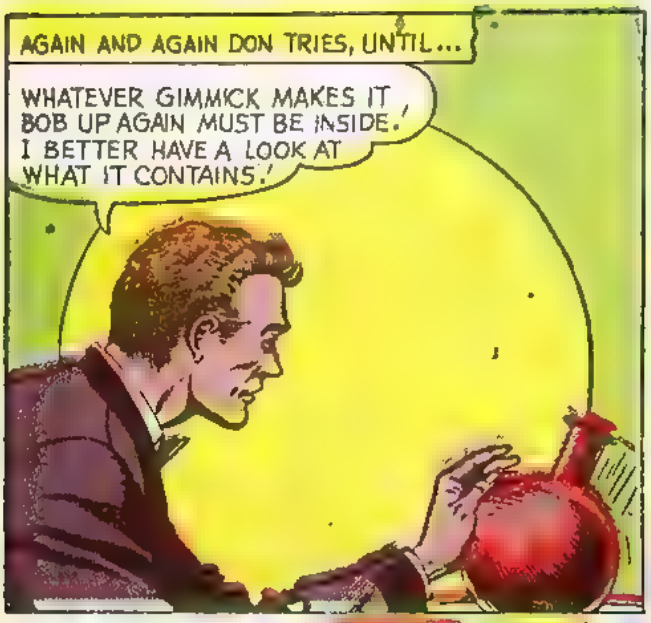
IT WON'T STAY ON ITS SIDE BECAUSE YOU PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND PERSONAL MAGNETISM! SEE--I COMMAND IT WITH A GESTURE--
A SLEIGHT-OF-HAND TRICK! ANYONE COULD DO THAT IF HE KNEW THE SECRET!

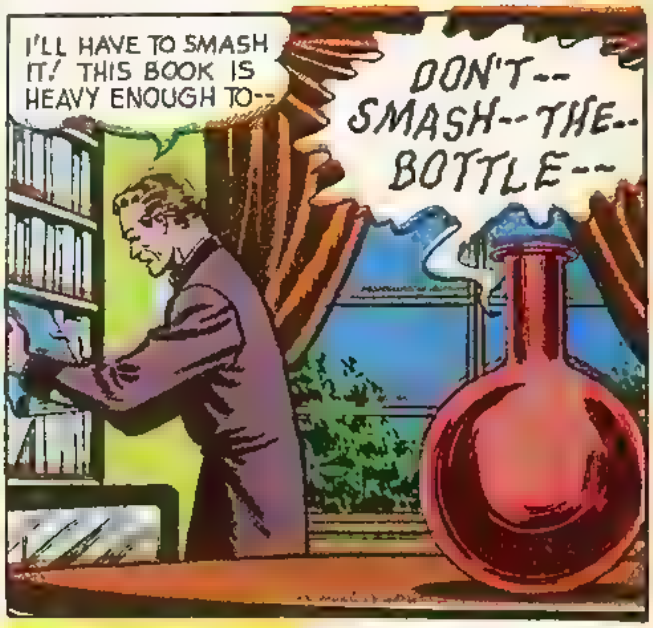

YOU'RE RIGHT, DONALD! IF HE KNEW THE SECRET--AS THAT SECRET WAS KNOWN BY STUDENTS OF TRUE MAGIC LIKE MESMER--CAGLIOSTRO--MERLIN!
AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF NAMES, MOIRA--IF YOU WANT TO CALL THE ROLL OF HISTORY'S OUTSTANDING TRICKSTERS!

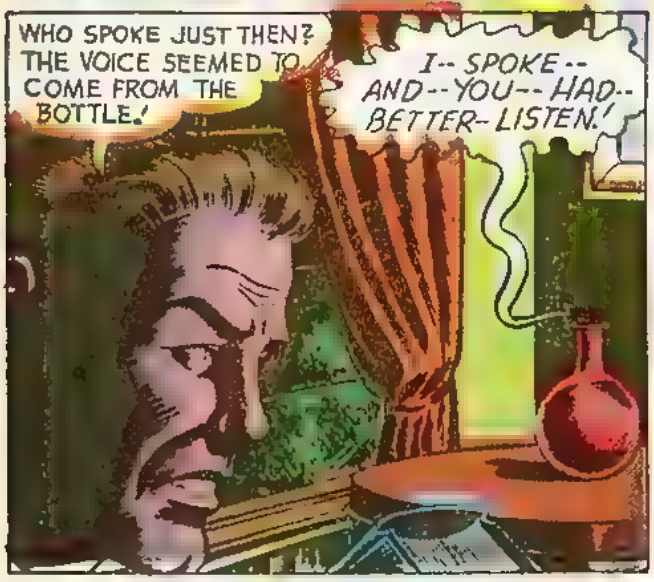
YOU SUGGEST THAT I'M A TRICKSTER, TOO! HERE--I GIVE YOU THIS BOTTLE FOR A PRESENT--AN ENGAGEMENT PRESENT! SUPPOSE YOU TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU AND TRY TO LEARN THE TRICK OF COMMANDING IT!
THANKS! IT'LL BE AN AMUSING PUZZLE TO SOLVE!

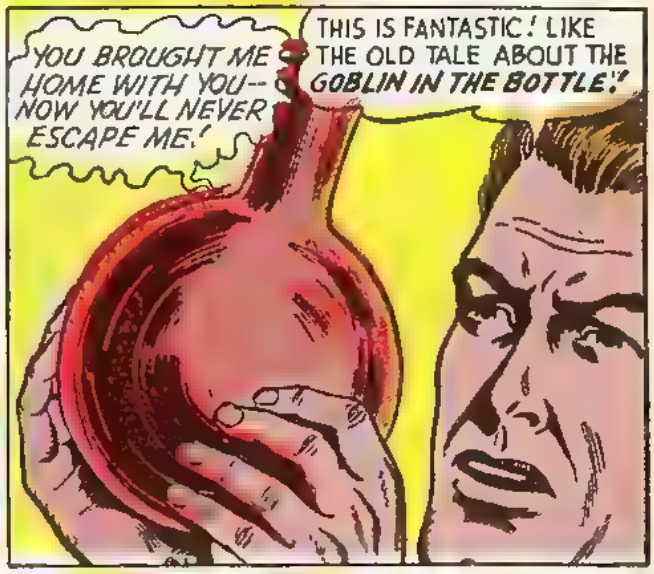
AS THE GUESTS LEAVE...
I WISH YOU HADN'T TAKEN THAT BOTTLE, DON! IT'S A CREEPY OLD THING--LIKE SOMETHING FROM AN EVIL LEGEND!
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, SUSAN! WHAT HARM CAN AN OLD MAGIC TRICK DO?

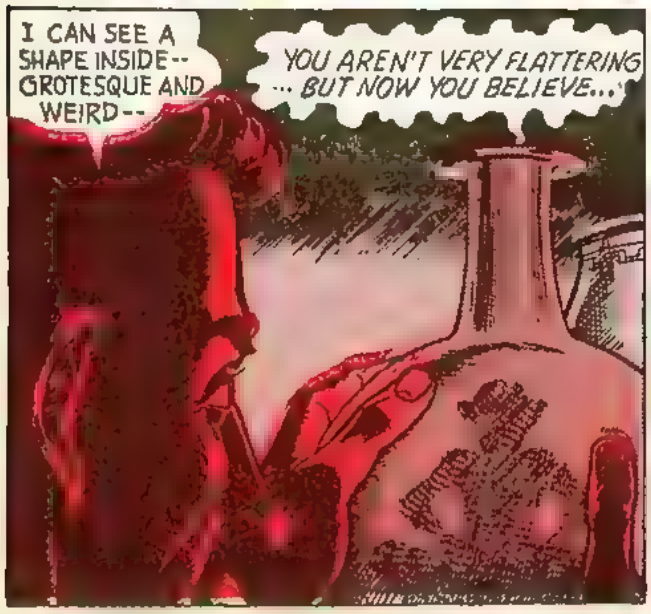

THAT NIGHT IN DON'S APARTMENT...
IT'S CERTAINLY A STUBBORN PIECE OF GLASSWARE!
I JUST--
CAN'T MAKE IT--
STAY DOWN!

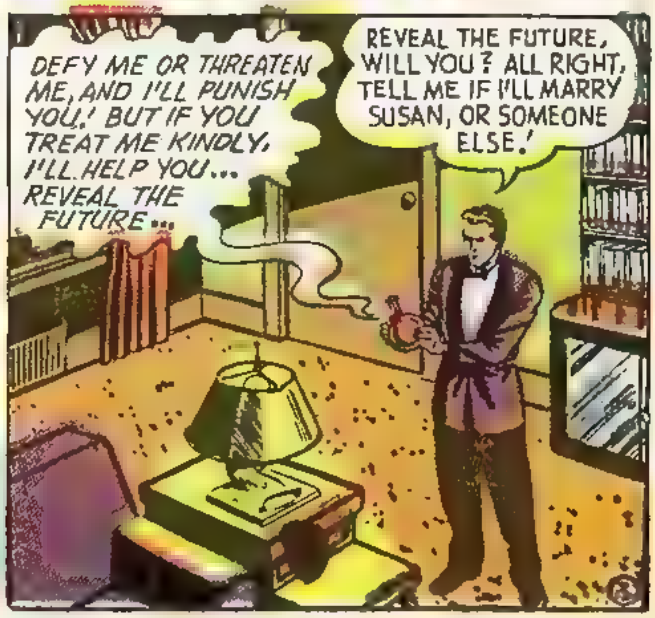

AGAIN AND AGAIN DON TRIES, UNTIL...
WHATEVER GIMMICK MAKES IT BOB UP AGAIN MUST BE INSIDE.' I BETTER HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT IT CONTAINS.'

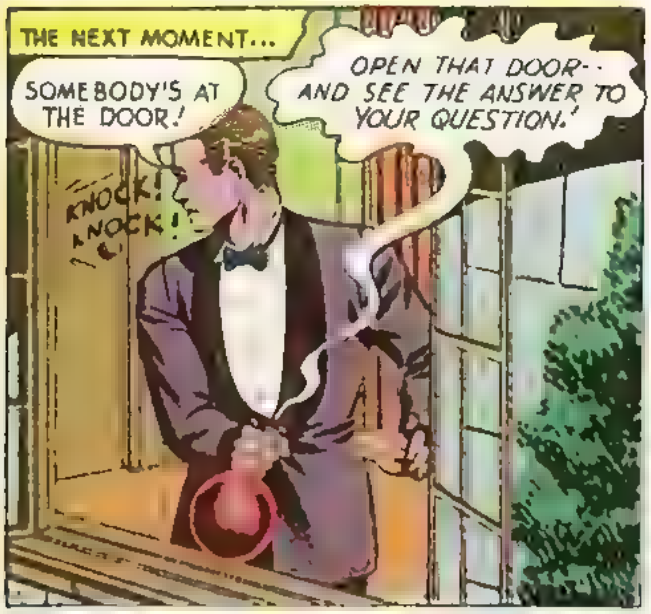

I'LL HAVE TO SMASH IT.' THIS BOOK IS HEAVY ENOUGH TO--
DON'T-- SMASH-- THE-- BOTTLE--


WHO SPOKE JUST THEN? THE VOICE SEEMED TO COME FROM THE BOTTLE.'
I-- SPOKE-- AND-- YOU-- HAD-- BETTER-- LISTEN.'

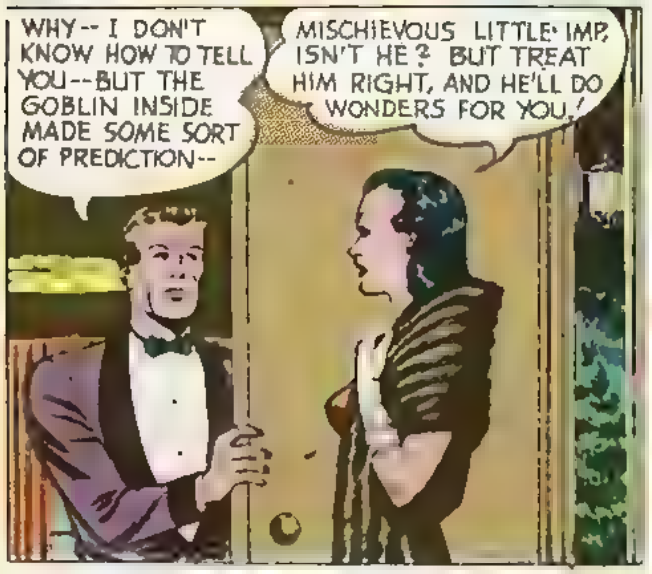

YOU BROUGHT ME HOME WITH YOU-- NOW YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE ME.'
THIS IS FANTASTIC.' LIKE THE OLD TALE ABOUT THE GOBLIN IN THE BOTTLE.'

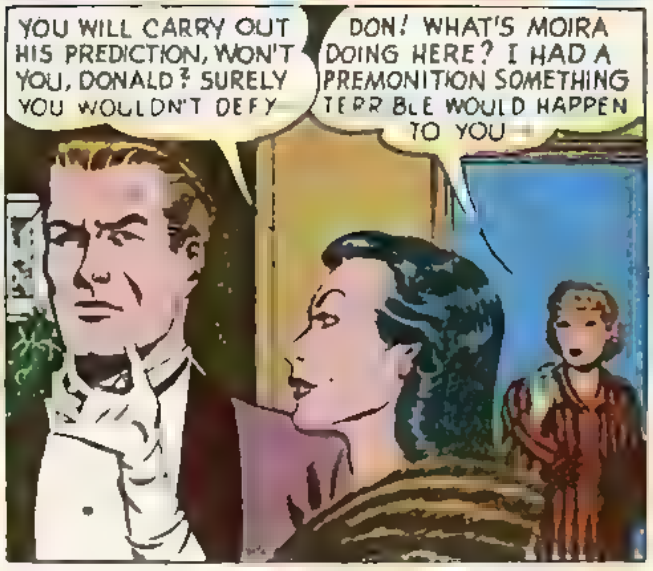

I CAN SEE A SHAPE INSIDE-- GROTESQUE AND WEIRD--
YOU AREN'T VERY FLATTERING ... BUT NOW YOU BELIEVE...'


DEFY ME OR THREATEN ME, AND I'LL PUNISH YOU.' BUT IF YOU TREAT ME KINDLY, I'LL HELP YOU... REVEAL THE FUTURE...
REVEAL THE FUTURE, WILL YOU? ALL RIGHT, TELL ME IF I'LL MARRY SUSAN, OR SOMEONE ELSE.'

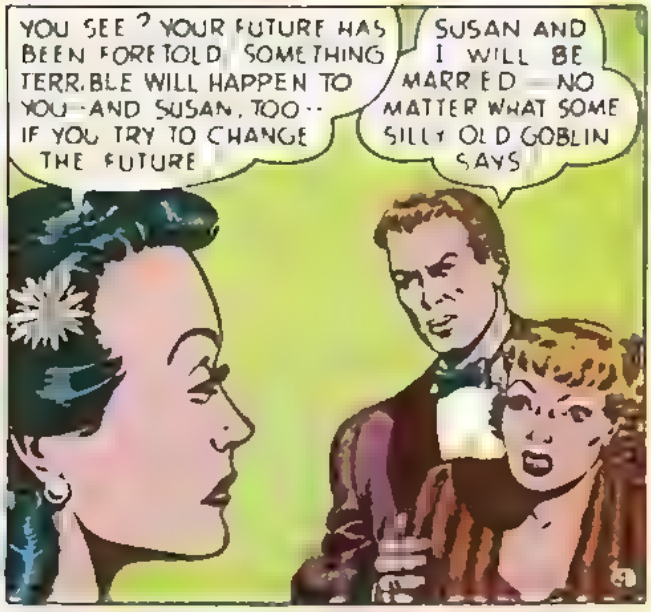

THE NEXT MOMENT...
SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR!
OPEN THAT DOOR-- AND SEE THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION!
KNOCK! KNOCK!

MOIRA! DOES THIS MEAN I WILL MARRY--
AREN'T YOU GOING TO INVITE ME IN, DONALD? HOW ARE YOU GETTING ALONG WITH MY BOTTLE?


WHY-- I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU--BUT THE GOBLIN INSIDE MADE SOME SORT OF PREDICTION--
MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE IMP, ISN'T HE? BUT TREAT HIM RIGHT, AND HE'LL DO WONDERS FOR YOU!


YOU WILL CARRY OUT HIS PREDICTION, WON'T YOU, DONALD? SURELY YOU WOULDN'T DEFY--
DON! WHAT'S MOIRA DOING HERE? I HAD A PREMONITION SOMETHING TERRIBLE WOULD HAPPEN TO YOU--

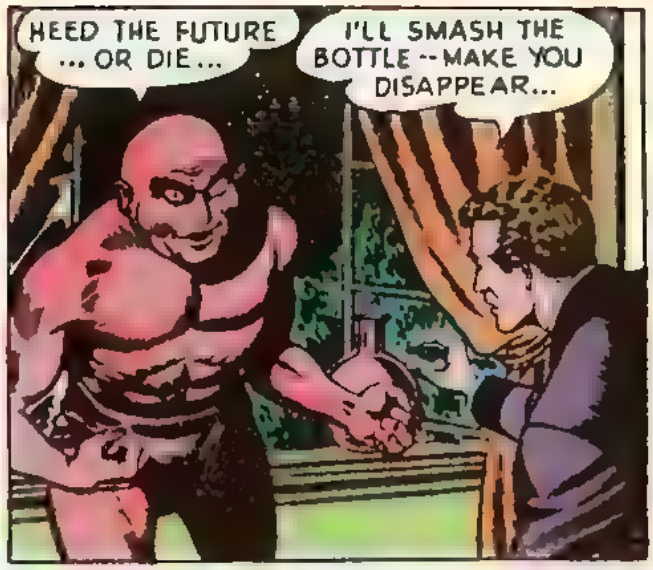
SUSAN, MY DEAR, DONALD HAS SOMETHING INTERESTING TO TELL YOU-- UNLESS HE'S AFRAID--
I'M NOT AFRAID TO TELL ANYTHING! I HEARD A VOICE FROM THAT BOTTLE! IT PREDICTED THAT I WOULD MARRY MOIRA!

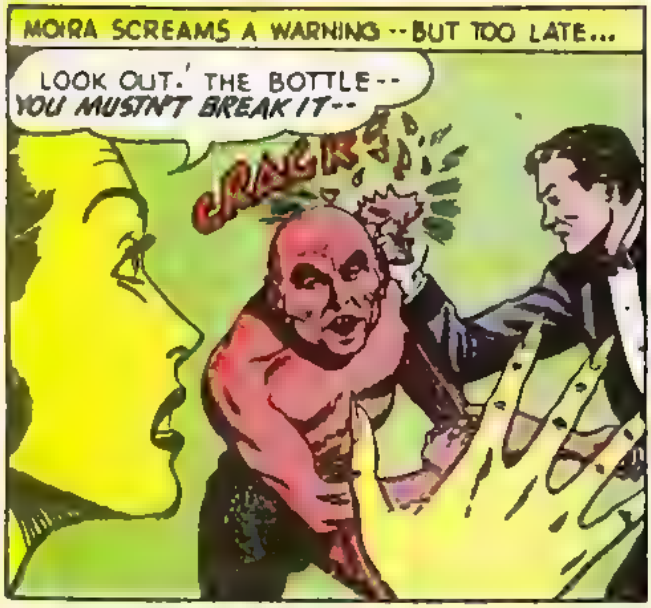

YOU SEE? YOUR FUTURE HAS BEEN FORETOLD! SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN TO YOU--AND SUSAN, TOO-- IF YOU TRY TO CHANGE THE FUTURE!
SUSAN AND I WILL BE MARRIED--NO MATTER WHAT SOME SILLY OLD GOBLIN SAYS!

I'VE NEVER BEEN SLIGHTED OR REFUSED ANYTHING IN MY LIFE, DONALD! I'M NOT USED TO DEFEAT! AND NEITHER IS THE GOBLIN IN THE BOTTLE! YOU DARE NOT DEFY HIM!
RIDICULOUS! YOU DON'T SUPPOSE I'M CRAZY ENOUGH TO BELIEVE HIS PROPHECY AND OBEY HIS ORDERS--

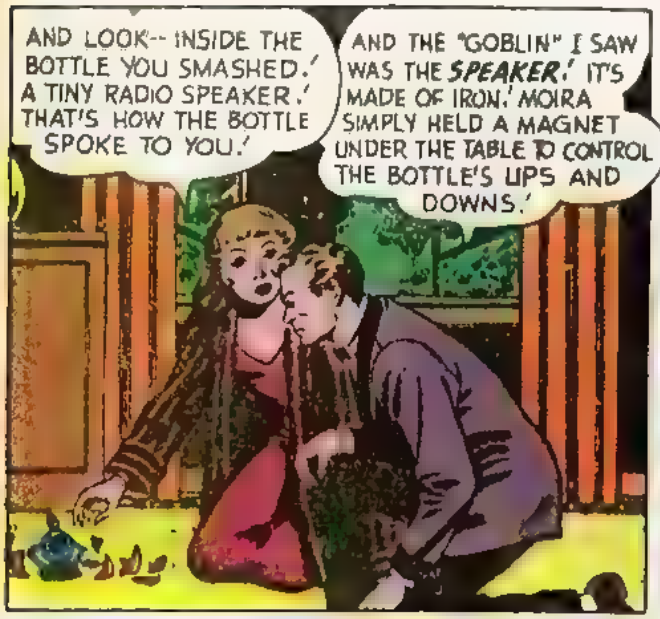
YOU FOOL! YOU HAVE DEFIED THE GOBLIN! NOW YOU MUST ANSWER TO HIM!
OHHHH!

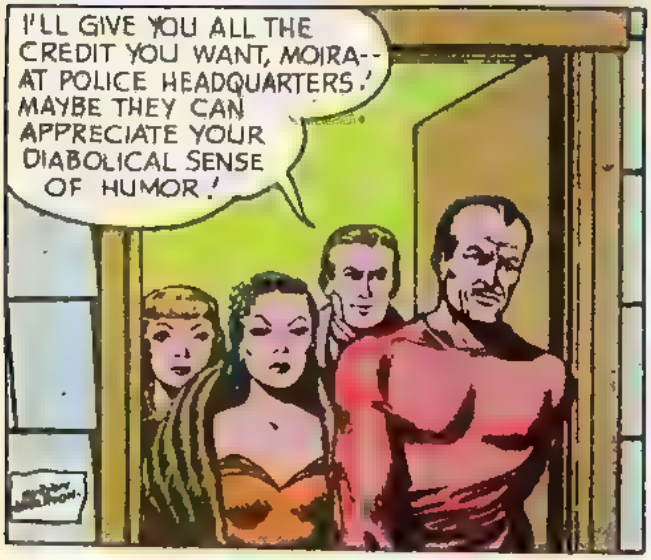
THE GOBLIN...

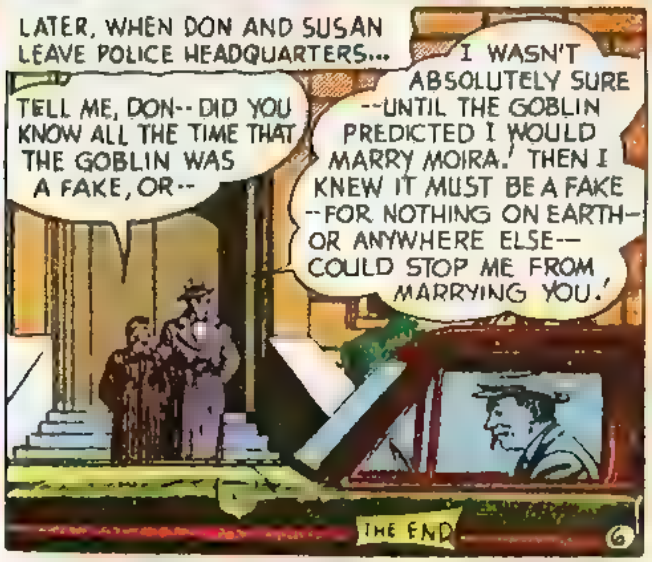

HEED THE FUTURE ... OR DIE...
I'LL SMASH THE BOTTLE--MAKE YOU DISAPPEAR...


MOIRA SCREAMS A WARNING--BUT TOO LATE...
LOOK OUT! THE BOTTLE-- YOU MUSTN'T BREAK IT--
CRACK!

LET'S RIP THIS MASK OFF! THE GOBLIN-- IS LATHAM!







ADVERTISEMENT

"NOW FOR THE $50,000 QUESTION. WHAT NON-ALCOHOLIC HAIR TONIC CONTAINING LANOLIN IS AMERICA'S FAVORITE?"

"I SAID GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL CONTAINING LANOLIN NOT WILDROOT CREAM-OIL AND A MANDOLIN!"

AMERICA'S FAVORITE

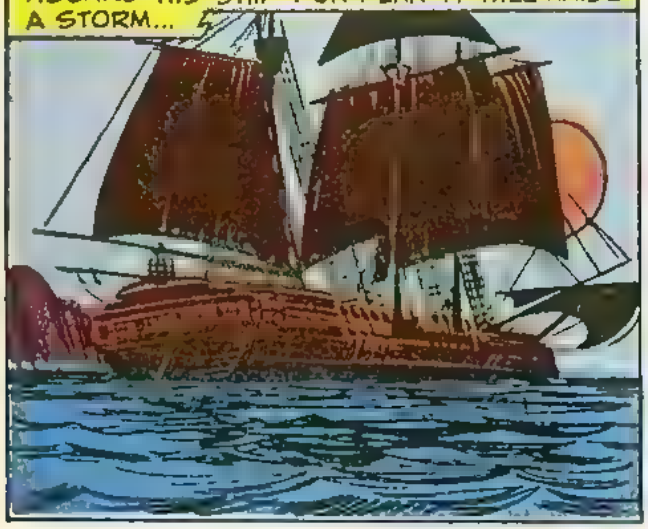
"YOUR HAIR'S BEST FRIEND"

DON'T FLUNK THE FINGER-NAIL TEST. Don't let dry, unruly hair and loose, ugly dandruff spoil your appearance. Keep your hair neat and natural from morning till night with Wildroot Cream-Oil. More men use it than any other hair tonic! Get a bottle today!

WHISTLE MAGIC

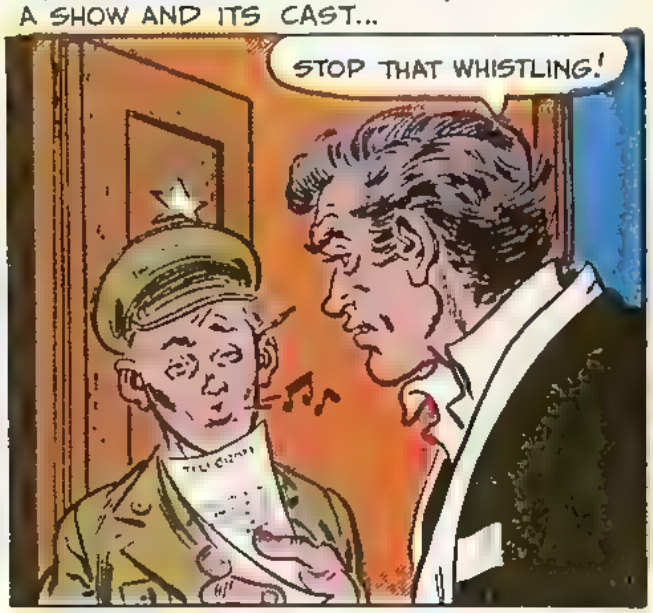
TO SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE OF LONG AGO, THE NOISE OF A HISSING SNAKE, THE SOUND OF A WHIZZING ARROW, THE HOWLING OF THE WIND -- ALL WERE SIGNS OF **DANGER** -- BECAUSE THEY COULD BE HEARD BUT NOT SEEN...

A VETERAN SEAMAN WILL NEVER WHISTLE ABOARD HIS SHIP FOR FEAR IT WILL RAISE A STORM...



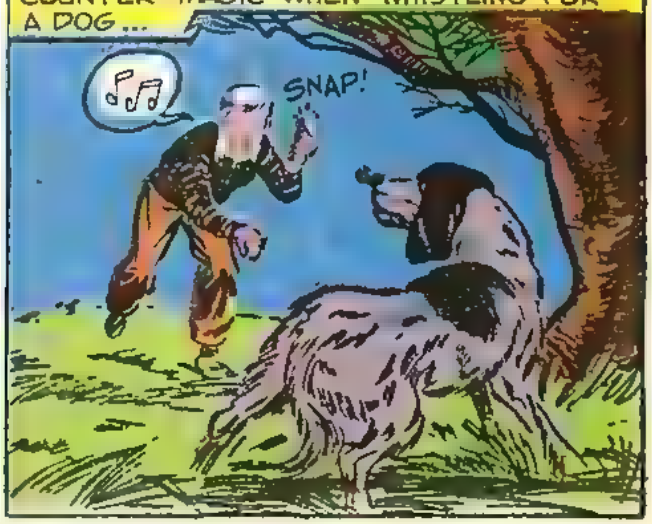
STRANGELY ENOUGH, SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE WHISTLE IN THE DARK TO KEEP WITCHES AND GHOSTS AWAY -- BUT ACTUALLY THEY ARE WHISTLING TO GIVE AN IMPRESSION OF NONCHALANCE...

A **WHISTLE** -- BELONGING TO THE NOISE CATEGORY -- WAS LIKEWISE CONSIDERED EVIL... A BELIEF THAT PERSISTS TO THIS DAY. TO **WHISTLE** IN THE DRESSING ROOM, THEATRICAL PEOPLE BELIEVE, WILL DOOM A SHOW AND ITS CAST...

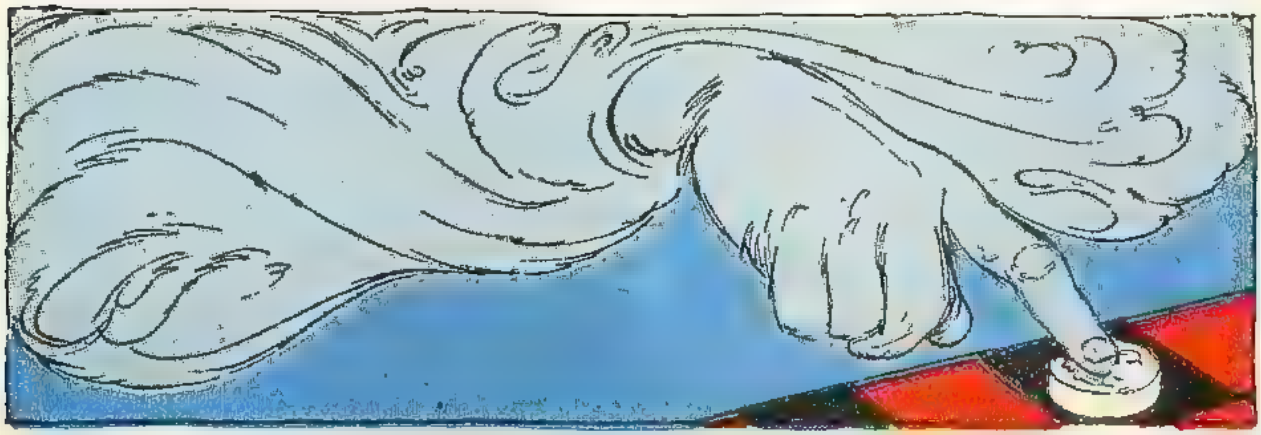


WHISTLING IS TABOO IN EDITORIAL ROOMS AND IN MINES. IT'S AN INVITATION FOR BAD LUCK TO ENTER...

SINCE WHISTLING IS REGARDED AS A SUMMONS FOR EVIL SPIRITS TO APPEAR, FINGERS MUST BE ***SNAPPED*** AS A COUNTER-MAGIC WHEN WHISTLING FOR A DOG...



FATE TAKES A HAND



SOME people call it a stroke of luck, others a twist of fate; still others call it a lucky break. We refer to those odd and unexplainable occurrences that seem to have been planned—although our better judgment says no. Oh, yes, some people call it sheer coincidence.

Consider the case of Mrs. Williams, of Spokane, Washington. She went shopping one day, but when she got downtown, discovered that she had forgotten her purse. She wondered about this—it had never happened before. At any rate, there was no point in trying to buy things without money, so she returned home.

No sooner did she let herself into the house than she discovered a blaze. The firemen got there just in time to put the fire out and save the house. Lucky? Mrs. Williams thinks so.

Take the case of Mrs. Harold Hill, of Columbus. For 21 long, heart-breaking years, she had been trying to contact her two brothers. She had lost track of them long ago, and all attempts to locate them had utterly failed. What made it all the harder was the fact that their name was *Smith.*

Deciding to take a vacation, she was driving through Wichita, Kansas, and got a sudden impulse to look through the city directory. She found two William S. Smiths. The first one she called was her brother!

In London not long ago, a man named Louis King went bicycling. At a busy intersection he collided with a bus. The bus driver hastily descended to see if Louis King was badly hurt. James Victor King, the bus driver, was relieved to learn that he wasn't. At that moment, a traffic policeman arrived on the scene. His name? Albert King!

Here is a curious coincidence that made history. On February 12, 1746, a Jean Marie Dunbarry was sent to the scaffold for the murder of his father. On February 13, 1846, exactly 100 years later to the day, his great-grandson, also named Jean Marie Dunbarry, paid the same penalty for the same crime.

The story is told that Thomas Bruce, Earl of Elgin, who was British Ambassador to Turkey in 1799, sought and obtained the permission of the Turkish authorities to raze the building of the Erechtheum, the temple situated on the Acropolis in the capital of Greece.

It was Lord Elgin's intention to rebuild the structure in London.

The demolition began at night, but no sooner had they dismantled the first of the majestic stone figures supporting the entablature of the building, than an unexplainable event occurred.

The statue shrieked. That was all the laborers needed—they fled in terror, and since no workman would dare go near the place after that, the entire plan had to be abandoned.

But this mystery has an explanation. You see, the ancient Greeks had constructed the statues on sonorous columns of masonry. As soon as the statue was removed, the wind blowing upon the bare column, produced a shrieking sound!

When William Lumsden of Roslyn, Washington, lost his left arm in a tractor accident, almost everybody sort of expected it. And this is why—William was the fourth generation of his family to lose his left arm in an accident. His great-grandfather, grandfather, and father had all, in turn, lost their left arms—and all were about William's age when the accidents happened.

When a candidate loses or wins by a single vote, it is hard not to believe that fate has taken a firm hand in the proceedings. History is filled with such examples.

Thomas Jefferson was elected President of the United States over Aaron Burr by the single vote of a W. C. Clairborne of Tennessee, when the presidential election was thrown into the House of Representatives in 1800.

This happened a second time in a presidential election, when John Quincy Adams was elected to head the nation over Andrew Jackson by the one vote of General Stephen Rensselaer.

Hayes was the third and final man to reach the White House by the slim margin of one vote. It was an electoral vote, and Hayes received 185 to Samuel Tilden's 184.

A majority of one vote cost a king his very life, when King Charles I of England was judged by a tribunal of 135 judges. Sixty-eight of them voted for his execution.

A single vote brought the Third French Republic into being in 1875. At the time, the 706 deputies of the Assembly were divided on the question of whether France was to be a Republic or a Monarchy.

The vote had reached an even deadlock when the Republic won by a vote of 353-352, when one monarchist deputy became ill with a stomach ache. The Republic, which came into existence by a majority of one vote, came to an abrupt end in 1940 when Camille Chautemps cast his single decisive vote against the Republic.

One vote was responsible for making Washington, Oregon, and Idaho a part of the United States. This single vote was cast by Francis Xavier Mathieu at the fateful Convention of Champeeg on May 2, 1843. Mathieu's one vote broke the tie of 51-51 so that adherence to the United States was brought about by a vote of 27 to 25.

A single vote was responsible for another great addition to the Union—Texas. This was the vote of Senator Edward Hannegan in 1845. With the argument making the floor of the Senate as hot as an open furnace, the vote stood divided at 26-26 on the vital question of admission of Texas. At length the deadlock was broken by Senator Hannegan's vote.

England can point to two cases where a single vote vitally affected its history. On June 10, 1645, the English Parliament voted 91-90 to entrust the Command in Chief of the Army to Oliver Cromwell, who consequently achieved supreme power by the margin of one vote.

The other case involves the Act of English Settlement, which gave the British throne to the House of Hanover. This act passed the House of Commons on May 14, 1701, by a vote of 96-95. The single vote cast during the last minute by Sir Arthur Owen of Wales placed George I on the English throne.

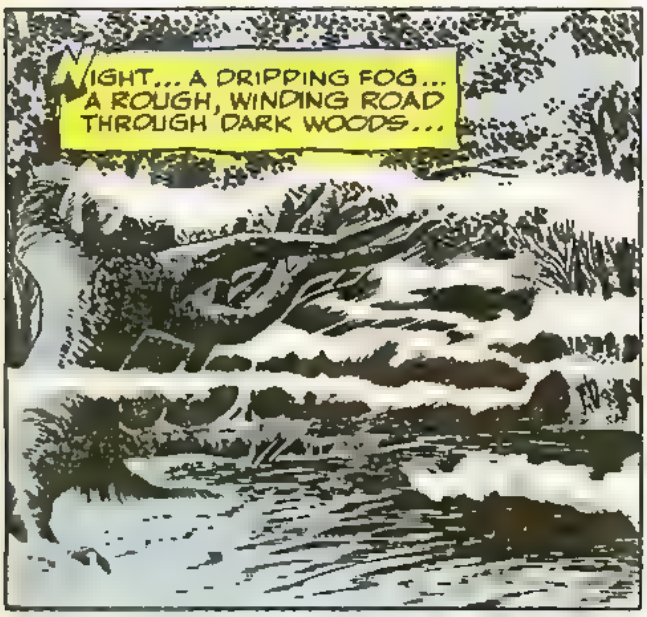
What degree of "Fate" there was to settle the above vital matters one way or the other is a matter of argument, but of one thing you can be sure—on each occasion, one side was bound to have explained, in language suitable to the characters and times, "What a terrific break!"—while the other side lamented, "What horrible luck!"

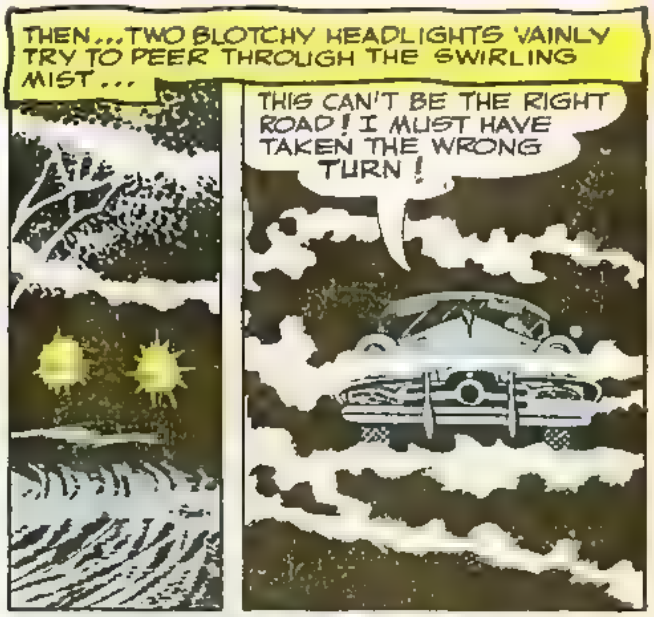
One final anecdote to conclude this article on the vagaries of Fate. A John Marlow, of Montana, who was motoring near Collingwood, Canada, collided with another car. He jumped out of his car to inspect the damage done—but he soon had other things to think about. The driver of the other car was a brother whom he hadn't seen in almost 40 years!

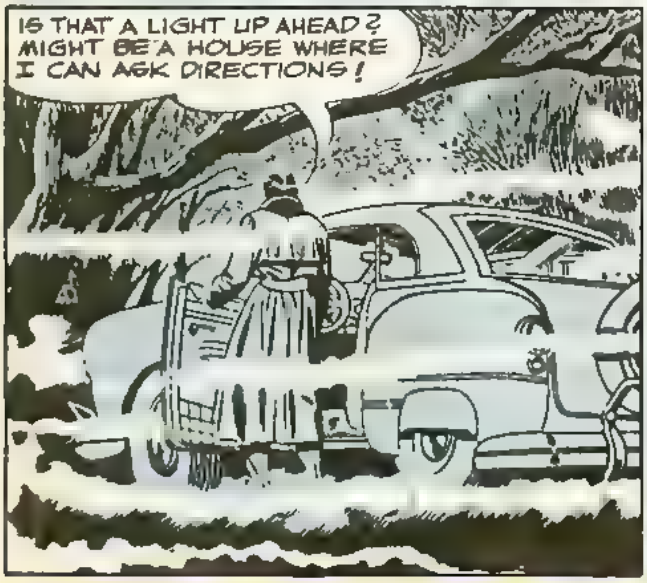
THE PHANTOM STRANGER

THREE MEN TRAPPED IN AN OLD SORCERER'S HOUSE --AND TWO OF THEM HAD TO DIE SO THAT THE THIRD COULD LIVE FOREVER!

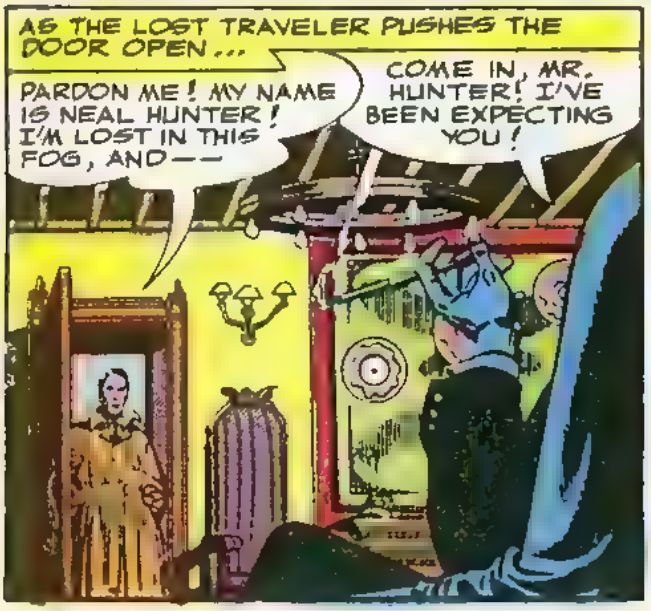
The HOUSE of STRANGE SECRETS!


NIGHT... A DRIPPING FOG... A ROUGH, WINDING ROAD THROUGH DARK WOODS...


THEN...TWO BLOTCHY HEADLIGHTS VAINLY TRY TO PEER THROUGH THE SWIRLING MIST...
THIS CAN'T BE THE RIGHT ROAD! I MUST HAVE TAKEN THE WRONG TURN!


IS THAT A LIGHT UP AHEAD? MIGHT BE A HOUSE WHERE I CAN ASK DIRECTIONS!

I'M IN LUCK! LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S HOME!


AS THE LOST TRAVELER PUSHES THE DOOR OPEN...
PARDON ME! MY NAME IS NEAL HUNTER! I'M LOST IN THIS FOG, AND--
COME IN, MR. HUNTER! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

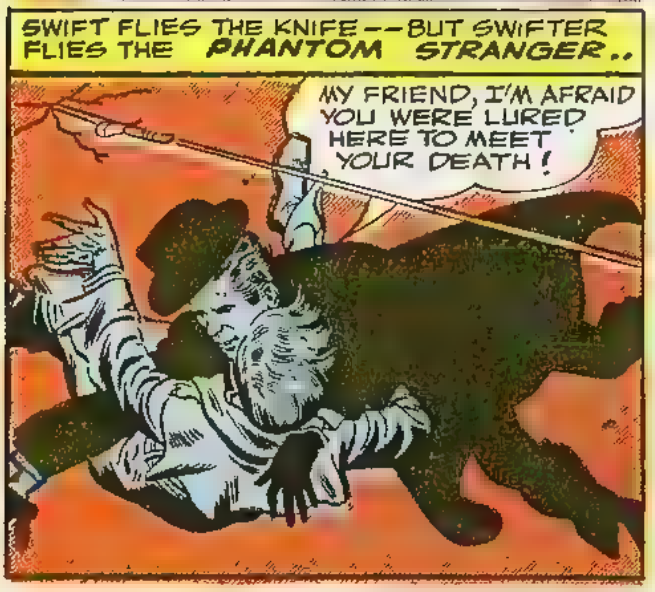
I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE LIKE THIS! IF YOU TELL ME WHERE I AM--

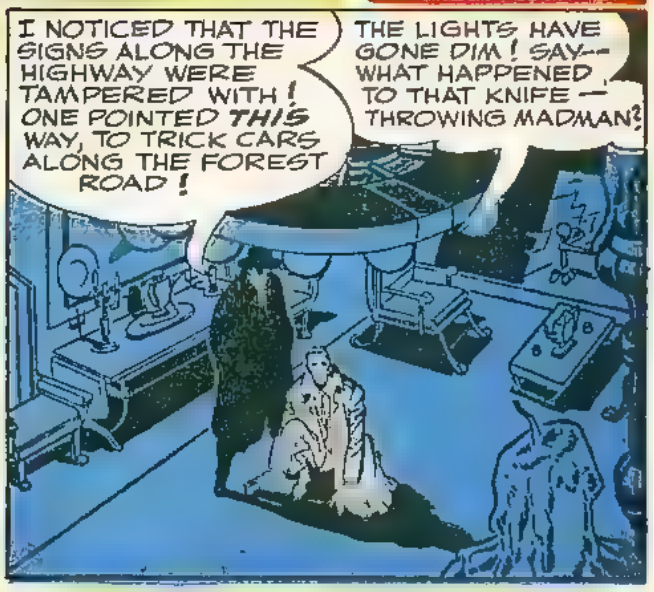
JUST NOW, YOU'RE A GUEST IN MY HOUSE! PLEASE CLOSE THE DOOR AND COME IN!

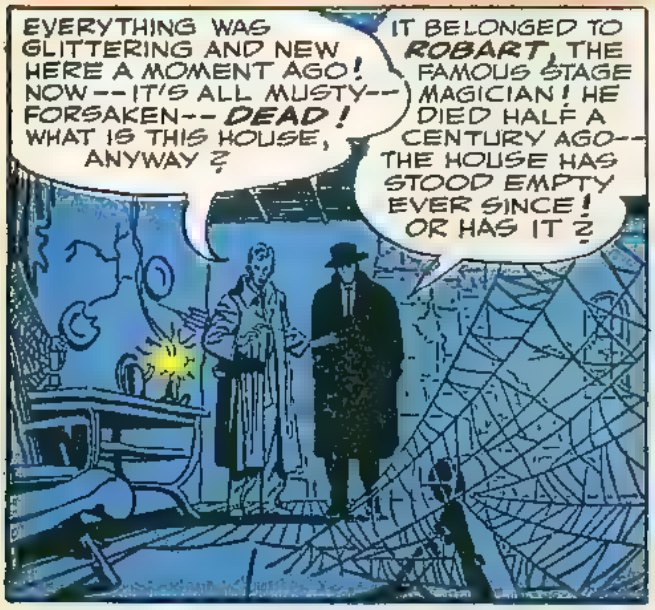
AT THAT MOMENT A NEW VOICE INTERRUPTS...
MR. HUNTER, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF A HOST WHO GREETS HIS GUEST WITH A KNIFE BEHIND HIS BACK?
HUH? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

I'VE SET THIS SCENE TOO CAREFULLY TO HAVE IT RUINED NOW!

LOOK OUT!


SWIFT FLIES THE KNIFE--BUT SWIFTER FLIES THE PHANTOM STRANGER..
MY FRIEND, I'M AFRAID YOU WERE LURED HERE TO MEET YOUR DEATH!


I NOTICED THAT THE SIGNS ALONG THE HIGHWAY WERE TAMPERED WITH! ONE POINTED THIS WAY, TO TRICK CARS ALONG THE FOREST ROAD!
THE LIGHTS HAVE GONE DIM! SAY-- WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT KNIFE-- THROWING MADMAN?

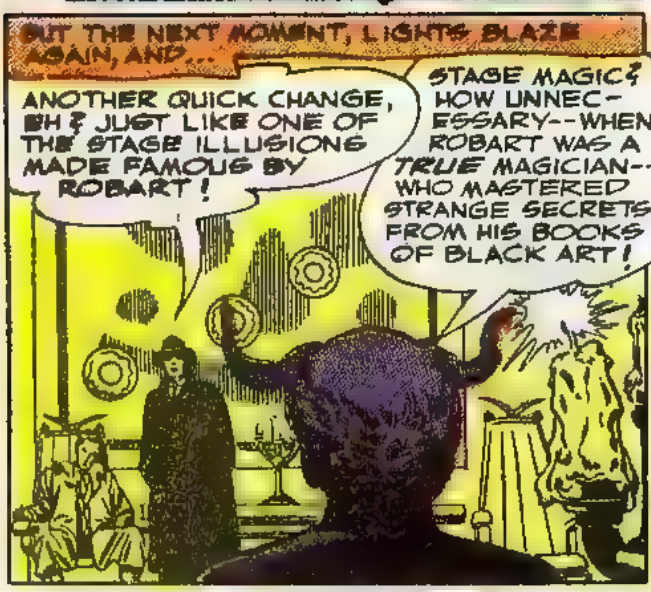

EVERYTHING WAS GLITTERING AND NEW HERE A MOMENT AGO! NOW--IT'S ALL MUSTY-- FORSAKEN--DEAD! WHAT IS THIS HOUSE, ANYWAY?
IT BELONGED TO ROBART, THE FAMOUS STAGE MAGICIAN! HE DIED HALF A CENTURY AGO-- THE HOUSE HAS STOOD EMPTY EVER SINCE! OR HAS IT?

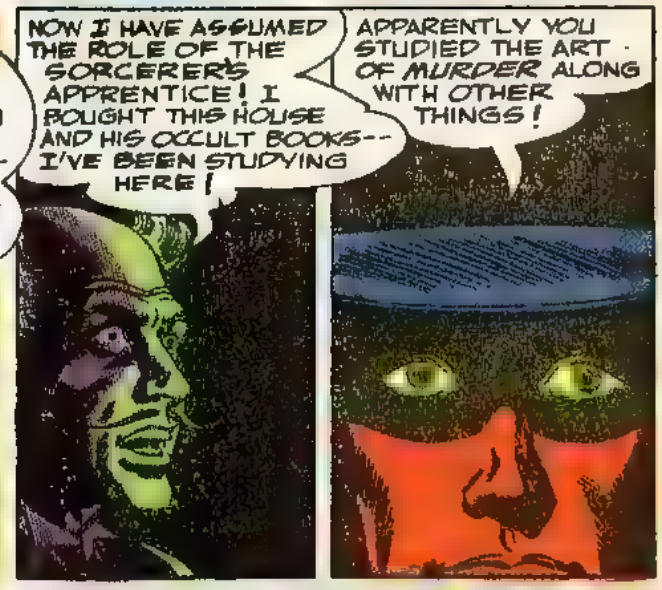
HOLDING A CANDLE FOR A CLOSER LOOK ABOUT THE CHANGED ROOM, NEAL HUNTER STAGGERS...
THIS IS ALL LIKE SOME WEIRD LEGEND FROM-- (COUGH!)--

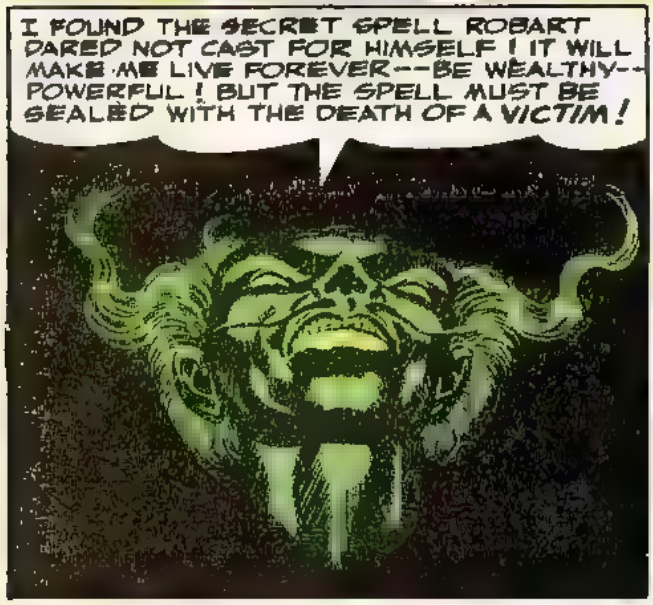
THAT CANDLE! DOUSE IT!

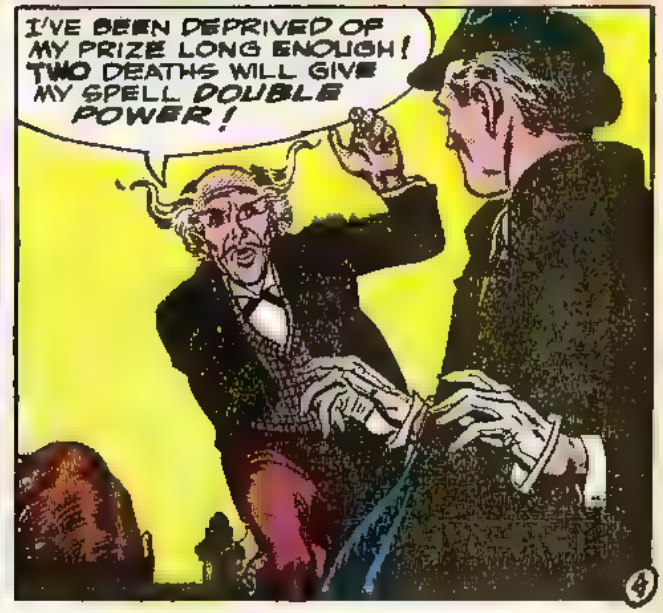
WHOOSH!

I CAUGHT A WHIFF OF THE CANDLE'S VAPOR! IT GAVE OFF A STUPEFYING GAS! WELL, THAT LEAVES US IN THE DARK AGAIN--


BUT THE NEXT MOMENT, LIGHTS BLAZE AGAIN, AND...
ANOTHER QUICK CHANGE, EH? JUST LIKE ONE OF THE STAGE ILLUSIONS MADE FAMOUS BY ROBART!
STAGE MAGIC? HOW UNNECESSARY--WHEN ROBART WAS A TRUE MAGICIAN--WHO MASTERED STRANGE SECRETS FROM HIS BOOKS OF BLACK ART!


NOW I HAVE ASSUMED THE ROLE OF THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE! I BOUGHT THIS HOUSE AND HIS OCCULT BOOKS--I'VE BEEN STUDYING HERE!
APPARENTLY YOU STUDIED THE ART OF MURDER ALONG WITH OTHER THINGS!


I FOUND THE SECRET SPELL ROBART DARED NOT CAST FOR HIMSELF! IT WILL MAKE ME LIVE FOREVER--BE WEALTHY--POWERFUL! BUT THE SPELL MUST BE SEALED WITH THE DEATH OF A VICTIM!


I'VE BEEN DEPRIVED OF MY PRIZE LONG ENOUGH! TWO DEATHS WILL GIVE MY SPELL DOUBLE POWER!

TAKEN OFF GUARD, THE *PHANTOM STRANGER* IS RUSHED BACKWARD...

MIGHTY SPIRITS, HELP ME GET MY HAND ON THE KNIFE, AND I'LL--

AGHHH!

I GET BETTER RESULTS BY RELYING ON SOME-THING MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN UNSEEN SPIRITS!

RECOVERING QUICKLY, THE MAGICIAN TOUCHES A BUTTON...

SO IT *WAS* A BIT OF ROBART'S STAGE MAGIC! THE WHOLE ROOM'S TURNING LIKE A REVOLVING STAGE!

AND THE WALL WILL BLOCK YOU OFF FROM ME AND MY VISITOR!

THE WALL'S SOLID! THE PUSH-BUTTON THAT CONTROLS IT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE--BUT THERE'S STILL A WAY--

MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE, NEAL HUNTER'S WITS SLOWLY RETURN...

YOU'RE MAD! WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?

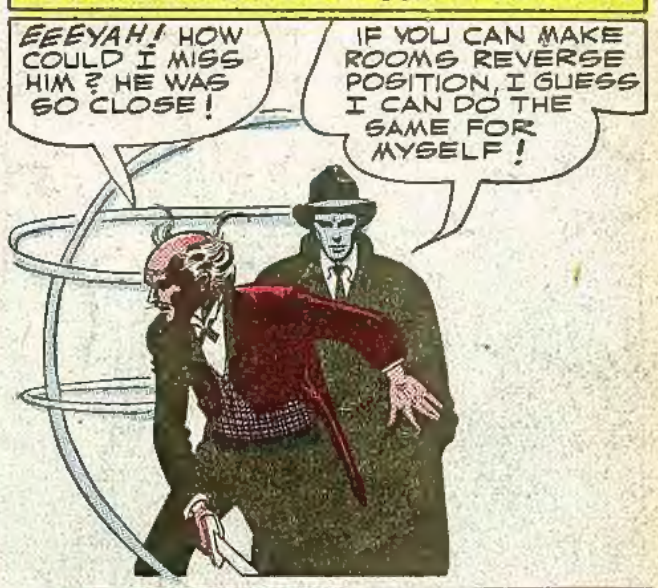
A MADMAN NEEDS NO REASON TO KILL! HOWEVER, I HAVE THE BEST REASON IN THE WORLD--TO GAIN IMMORTALITY!

THEN, AS WAVES OF HEAT FROM THE *PHANTOM STRANGER'S CONJURE FLASH* BURNS A GAP IN THE WALL...

IMMORTALITY CANNOT BE WON SO EASILY MY FRIEND!

IF WALLS CAN'T STOP YOU, MY SWORD WILL!

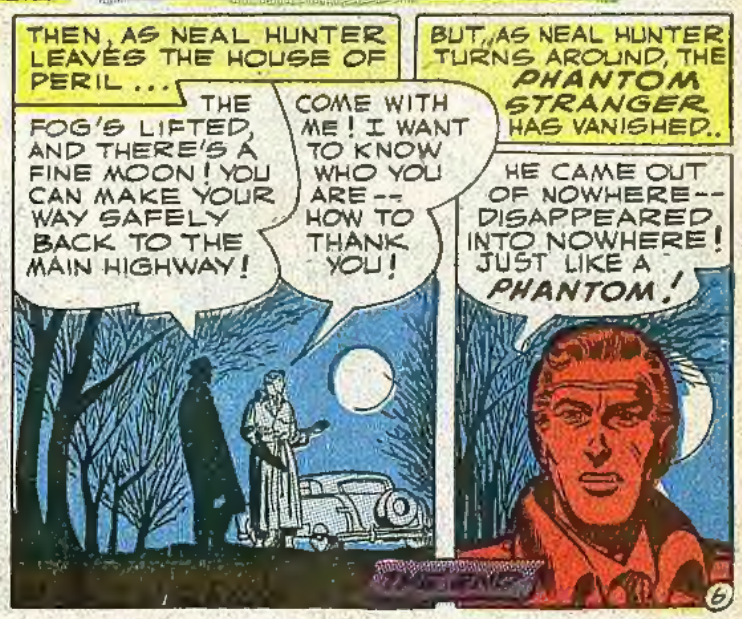
IN A BLIND RAGE, THE SWORDSMAN RUSHES FORWARD...
I'LL PIN YOU TO THE WALL LIKE A MOTH!


BUT WHEN THE DEADLY BLADE STRIKES..
EEEYAH! HOW COULD I MISS HIM? HE WAS SO CLOSE!
IF YOU CAN MAKE ROOMS REVERSE POSITION, I GUESS I CAN DO THE SAME FOR MYSELF!

SO THIS IS THE ELECTRICAL WIRING THAT POWERS YOUR MAGICAL EFFECTS!
IF I CAN DRIVE HIM BACK AGAINST THOSE LIVE WIRES!

HA HA! I'VE GOT HIM!

BUT THE MURDEROUS STROKE OF THE SWORD AGAIN MISSES ITS ELUSIVE TARGET AND DRIVES HOME AMONG THE WIRES...
HE FOUND THE DEATH HE MEANT FOR ME! PERHAPS FATE PLANNED IT THAT WAY!


THEN, AS NEAL HUNTER LEAVES THE HOUSE OF PERIL...
THE FOG'S LIFTED, AND THERE'S A FINE MOON! YOU CAN MAKE YOUR WAY SAFELY BACK TO THE MAIN HIGHWAY!
COME WITH ME! I WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE -- HOW TO THANK YOU!
BUT, AS NEAL HUNTER TURNS AROUND, THE PHANTOM STRANGER HAS VANISHED..
HE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE -- DISAPPEARED INTO NOWHERE! JUST LIKE A PHANTOM!

Two More Thrilling Magazines for MYSTERY Fans!

WE ALL KNOW THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THE SUPERNATURAL... WE KNOW THERE'S ALWAYS A LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR WHAT *SEEMS* TO BE WEIRD AND GLOOMY AND UNEXPLAINABLE....

BUT IT'S FUN TO SEARCH THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS DARK TUNNELS OF THESE EXCITING STORIES IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH!

SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

ON SALE *Everywhere!*

YOU'RE SURE TO ENJOY THEM!

GIVEN! BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

Wilson Chem. Co. Dept. 115-N, Tyrone, Pa. Date.....

Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____

ST _____ R. D. _____ BOX _____

TOWN _____ ZONE NO _____ STATE _____

PRINT LAST NAME HERE

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today